

SUMMER  
ISSUE  
No. 38

# CRACK COMICS

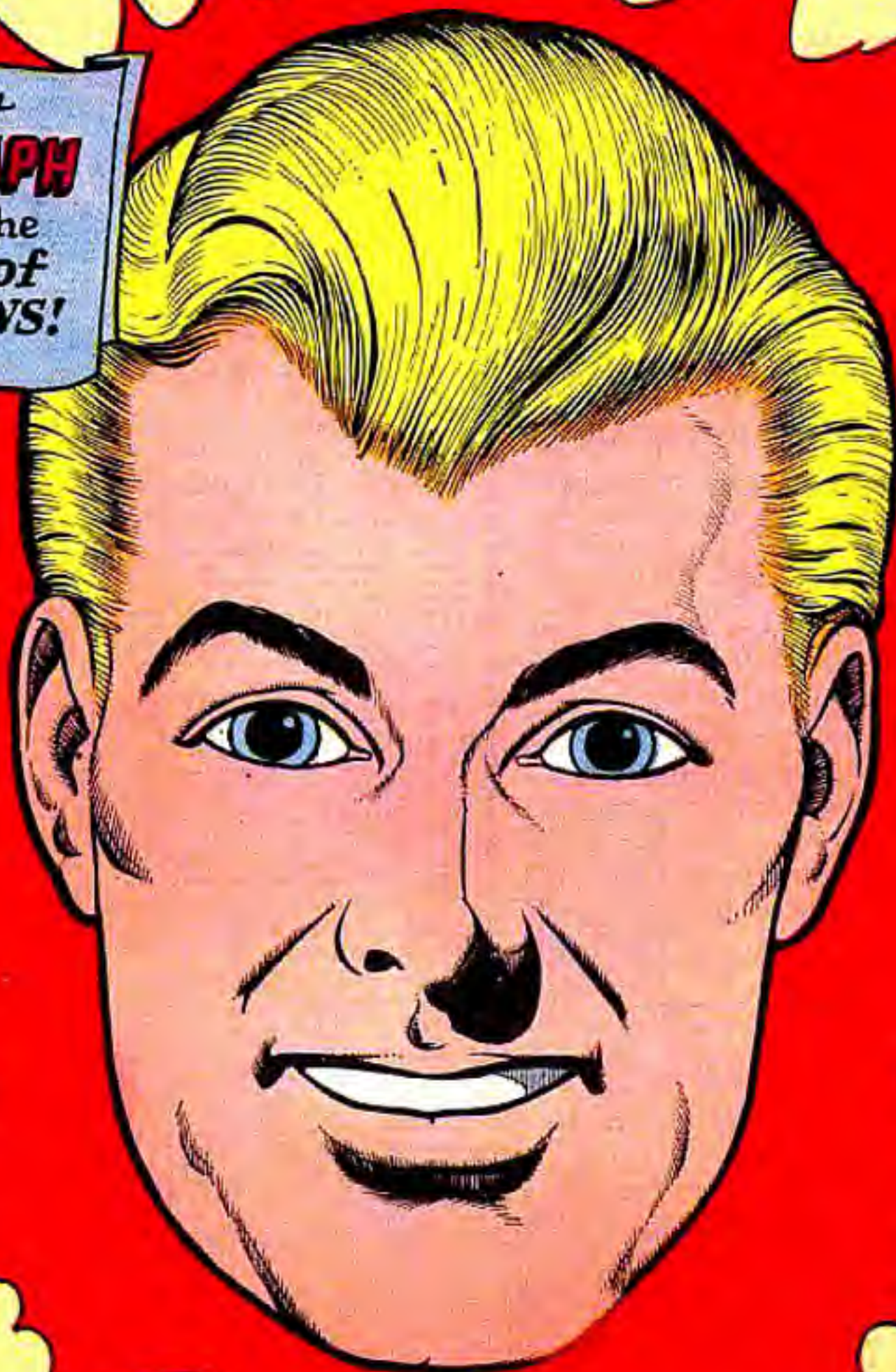
10¢



Captain

**TRIUMPH**

visits The  
**Castle of  
SHADOWS!**





**WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM**



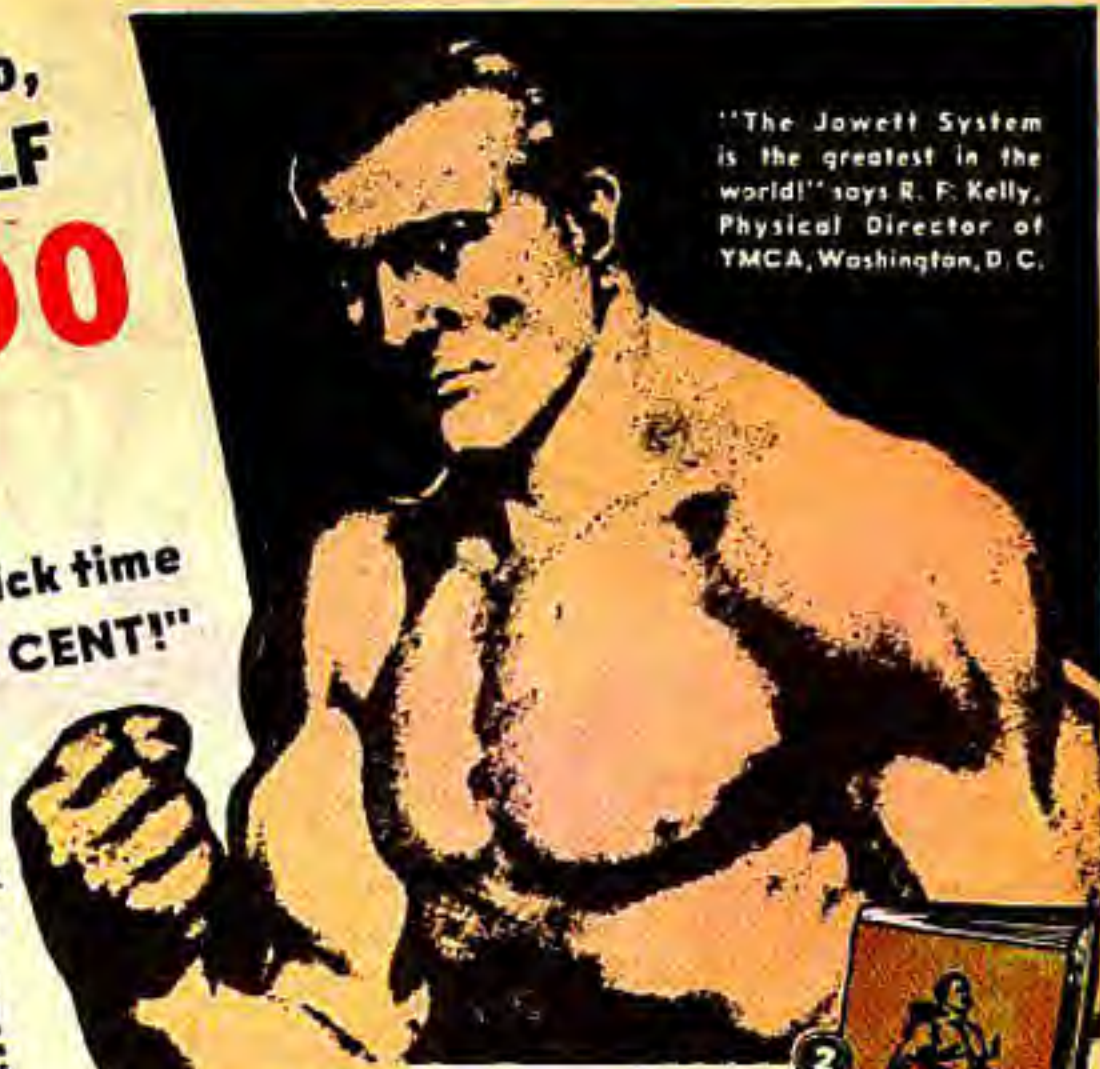
# "Let me show **YOU** too, HOW TO MAKE YOURSELF **COMMANDO -TOUGH**

inside and out... in double quick time  
—OR IT WON'T COST YOU A CENT!"

says *George F. Jowett*

whom experts call the  
**WORLD'S GREATEST BODY BUILDER**

Thousands of Jowett pupils are in the U. S. and British forces knocking legs and heads slap-happy with their swift, powerful bodies. Let me prove to YOU how in double quick time I can put inches of dynamic muscles on your arms! Add inches to your chest! Broaden your shoulders! And power-pack the rest of your body—so quickly it will amaze you! My methods can give you the untiring endurance of a panther. I have done it for thousands the world over. Give me a fighting chance to do it for you.



"The Jowett System is the greatest in the world!" says R. F. Kelly, Physical Director of YMCA, Washington, D. C.

## Give me 10 Minutes a Day Learn My Time Tested Secrets of Strength

I'll teach you the "Progressive Power Method" through which I rebuilt myself from a physical wreck the doctors condemned to die at 15, to the holder of more strength records than any other living athlete or teacher! "Progressive Power" has proven its ability to build the strongest, handsomest men in the world. And I stand ready to show you on a money back basis—that no matter how Rabby or puny you are I can do the same for you right in your own home. Through my proven secrets I bring to life new power in you inside and out, until YOU are fully satisfied you are the man you want to be. MY TIME TESTED METHODS RE-BUILD YOU.

### PROVE TO YOURSELF IN ONE NIGHT

Send only 25c in full payment for my test course "Moulding A Mighty Arm." Try it for one night! Experience the thrilling strength that will surge through your muscles.

### READ WHAT THESE FAMOUS PUPILS SAY ABOUT JOWETT



**A. PASSAMONT**, Jowett-trained athlete who was named America's first prize-winner for Physical Perfection.

**REX FERRIS**, Champion Strength Athlete of South Africa, says he, "I owe everything to Jowett methods!" Look at this chest—then consider the value of the Jowett Courses!



## BUILD A BODY YOU'LL BE PROUD OF

Send for These  
**FIVE Famous Courses**  
NOW in BOOK FORM  
**ONLY 25c EACH**  
or ALL 5 for \$1

At last, Jowett's world-famous muscle-building courses, are available in book form to all readers of this publication at an extremely low price of 25 cents each! All 5 for only \$1.00. You owe it to your country, to your family, and to yourself, to make yourself physically fit now! Start at once to improve your physique by following Jowett's simple, easy method of muscle-building!

### 10-DAY TRIAL OFFER!

Think of it—all five of these famous course-books for only ONE DOLLAR—or any one of them for 25c. If you're not delighted with these famous muscle-building books—if you don't actually FEEL results within ONE WEEK, send them back and your money will be promptly refunded!

Don't let this opportunity get away from you! And don't forget—by sending the FREE GIFT COUPON at once you receive a FREE copy of the famous Jowett book, "Nerves of Steel, Muscles of Iron."

**JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL CULTURE**  
230 Fifth Ave., Dept. 586 New York 1, N. Y.



MAIL ORDER-COUPON NOW and get my

## FREE! for a limited time only— ALL 5 GIFTS! and Jowett's big Photo Book

I want TWICE as many red-blooded Americans to start on the road to Mighty Strength THIS MONTH, so, with Coupon-ender, I offer FREE of further cost, all 5 World Famous Inside Secrets!

- ① Inside Secrets of "Commando Self Defense Tactics". How to defend yourself against Rough andumble.
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- ⑤ Inside Secrets of "Scientific Weight Lifting". How to lift heavy weights with ease.



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- ☐ Molding a Mighty Arm 25c
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NAME.....Age.....  
Please Print Plainly

ADDRESS.....



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# Captain Triumph

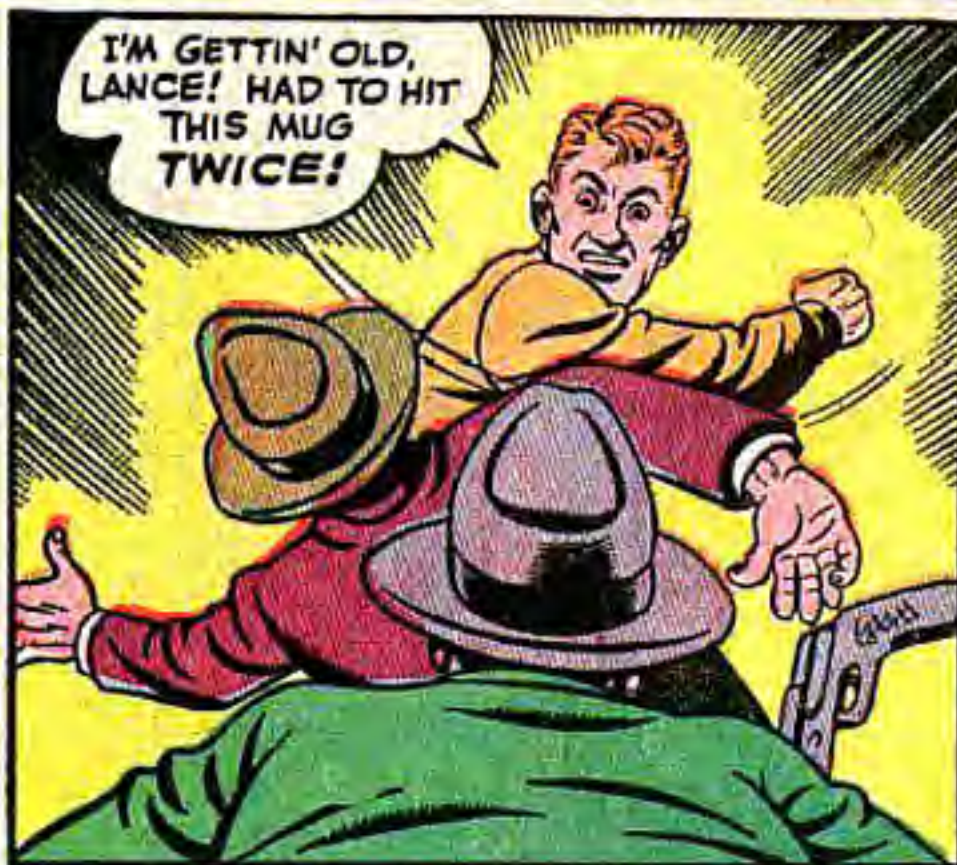


Even FEAR shrinks from Captain Triumph! When Lance Gallant rubs the birthmark on his wrist, the spirit of his departed twin, Michael, merges with him to form the invincible **CAPTAIN TRIUMPH**, conqueror of evil, injustice and crime ..... as in the surprising adventure of

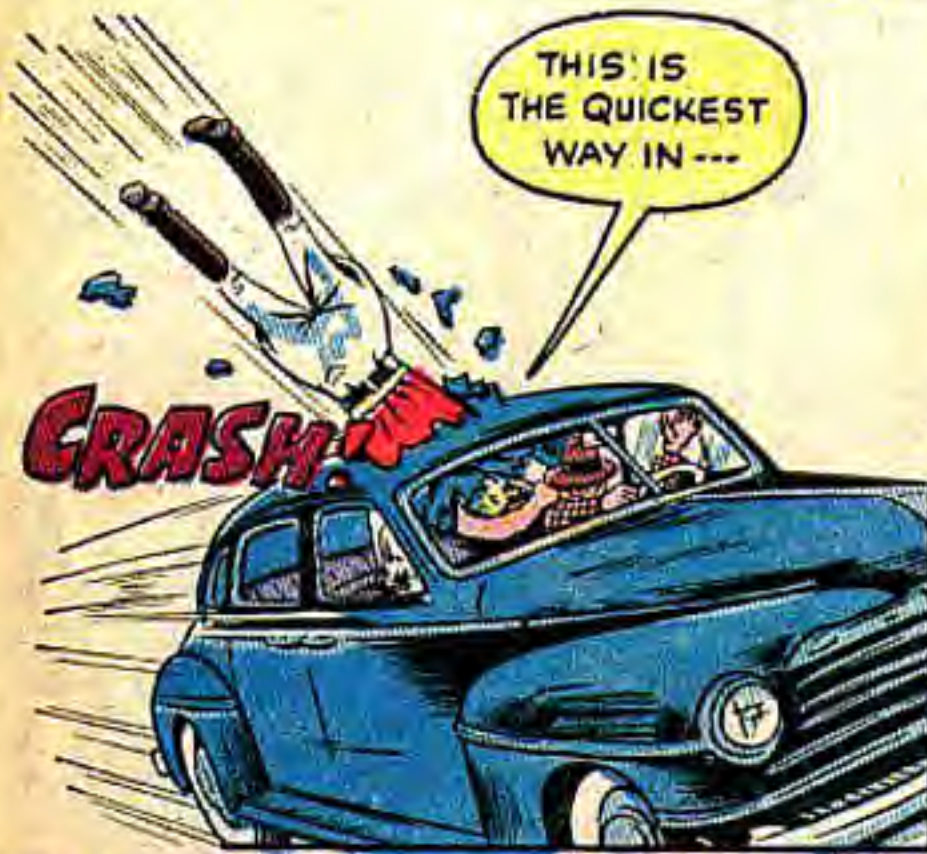
## *The Castle of Shadows!...*



**"ADVENTURE IS TO THE ADVENTUROUS...."**  
Perhaps the old saying is right -- at least in the case of Lance Gallant, who is forever coming face to face with action!









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Sinister, remote, surrounded by thicket and marsh, stands the **CASTLE OF SHADOWS...**



Others seek out the castle, and the first on the scene is ...



OLD MAN MILLS IS DEAD! HE MAY HAVE WILLED THE PLACE TO HIS NIECE, BUT I'M GOING TO CASH IN!

While, in the nearby town...

CASTLE OF SHADOWS? NOBODY GOES THERE! OLD MAN MILLS WARNED EVERYBODY OFF—AND, SINCE HE DIED—SOME SAY THE **CURSE** KILLED HIM!

OKAY—FORGET IT! JUST POINT OUT THE WAY THERE!



Second on the scene is ...



THEY DON'T KNOW I WAS ON THE SAME TRAIN AND GOT OFF ONE JUMP AHEAD! THAT'S A GRIM CASTLE—BUT IT SEEMS DESERTED!

WON'T THEY STARE WHEN I MEET THEM AT THE DOOR!

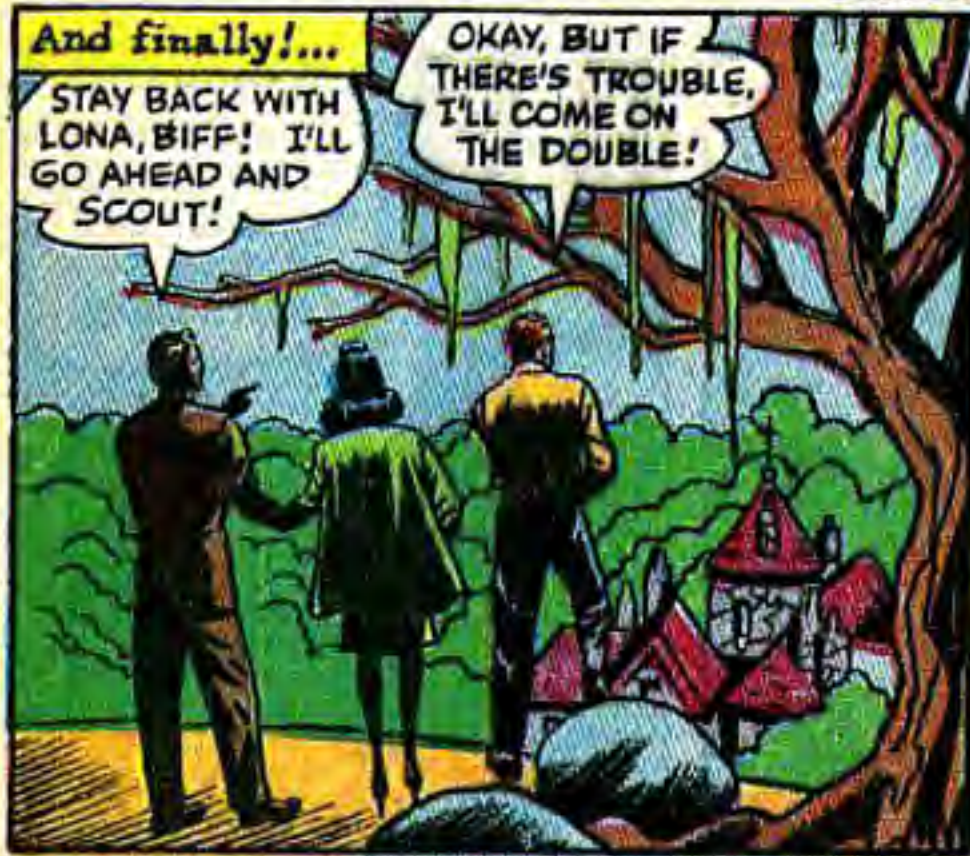


OHHHH--LPP!

TOO LATE TO WARN HER!





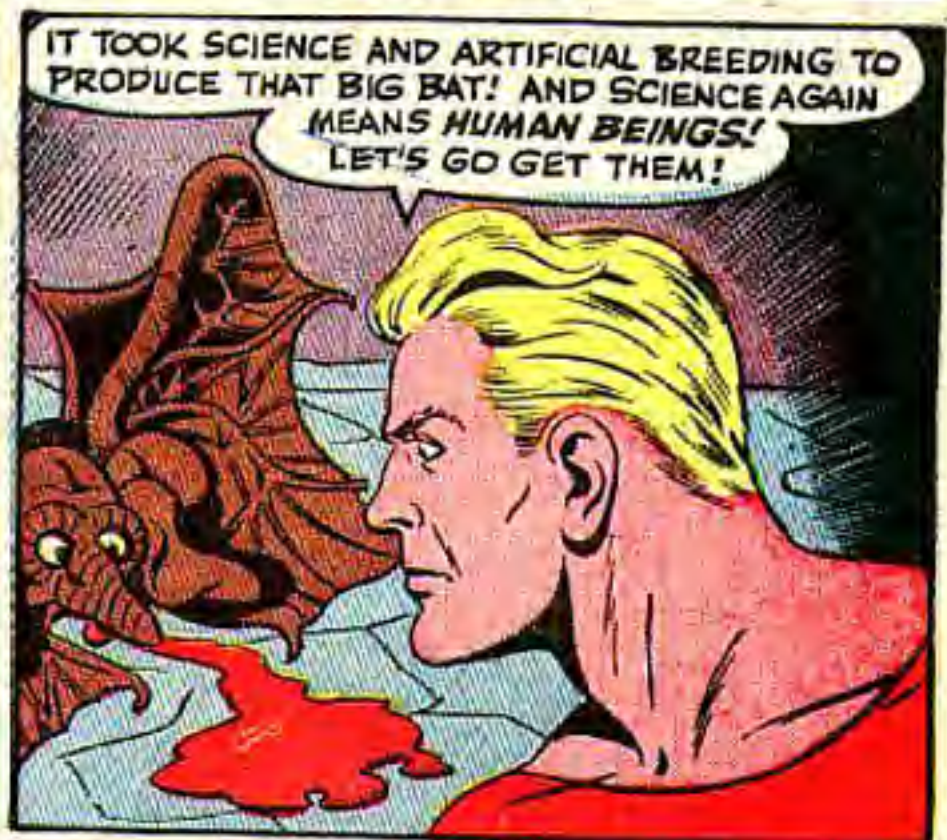




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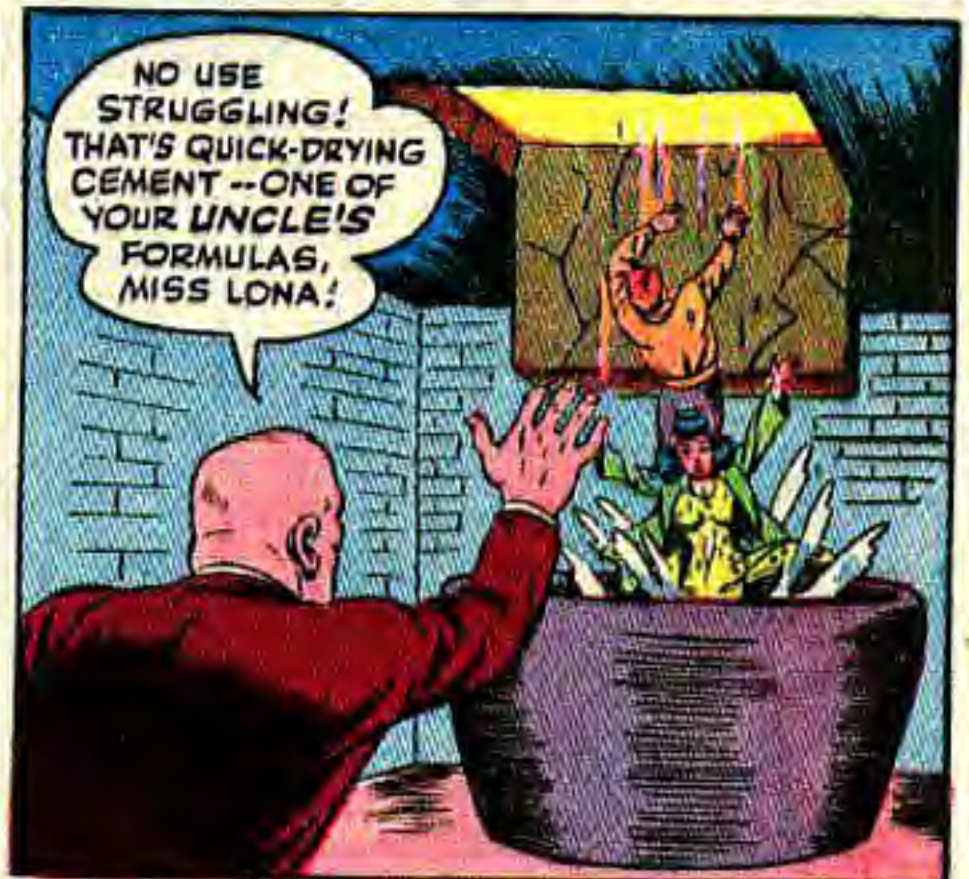




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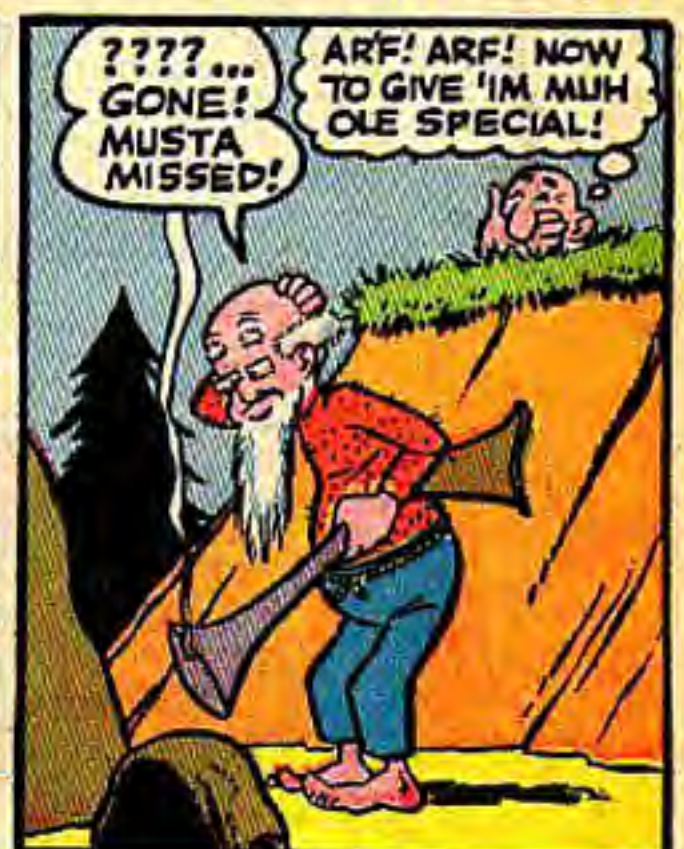
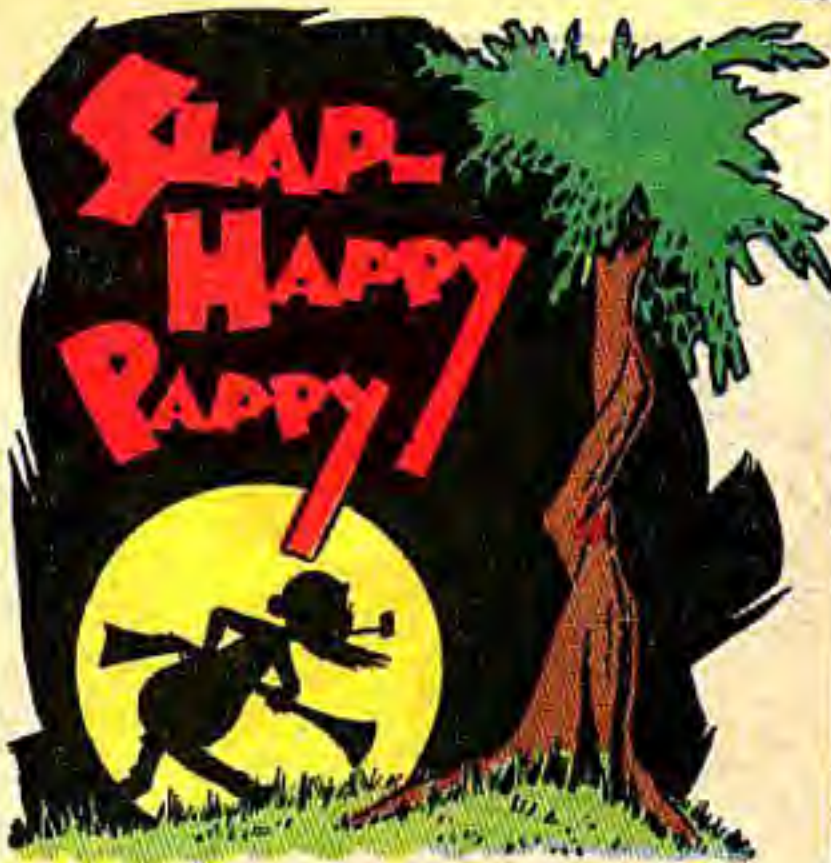




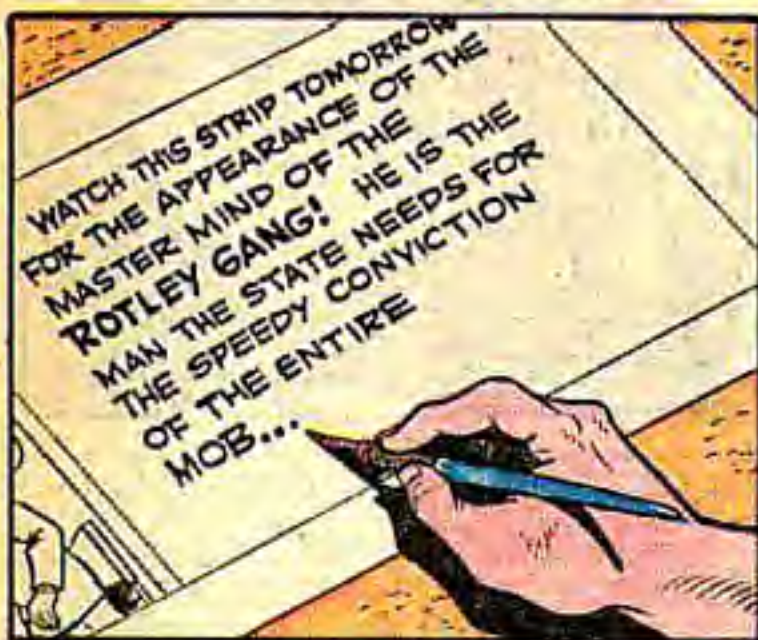






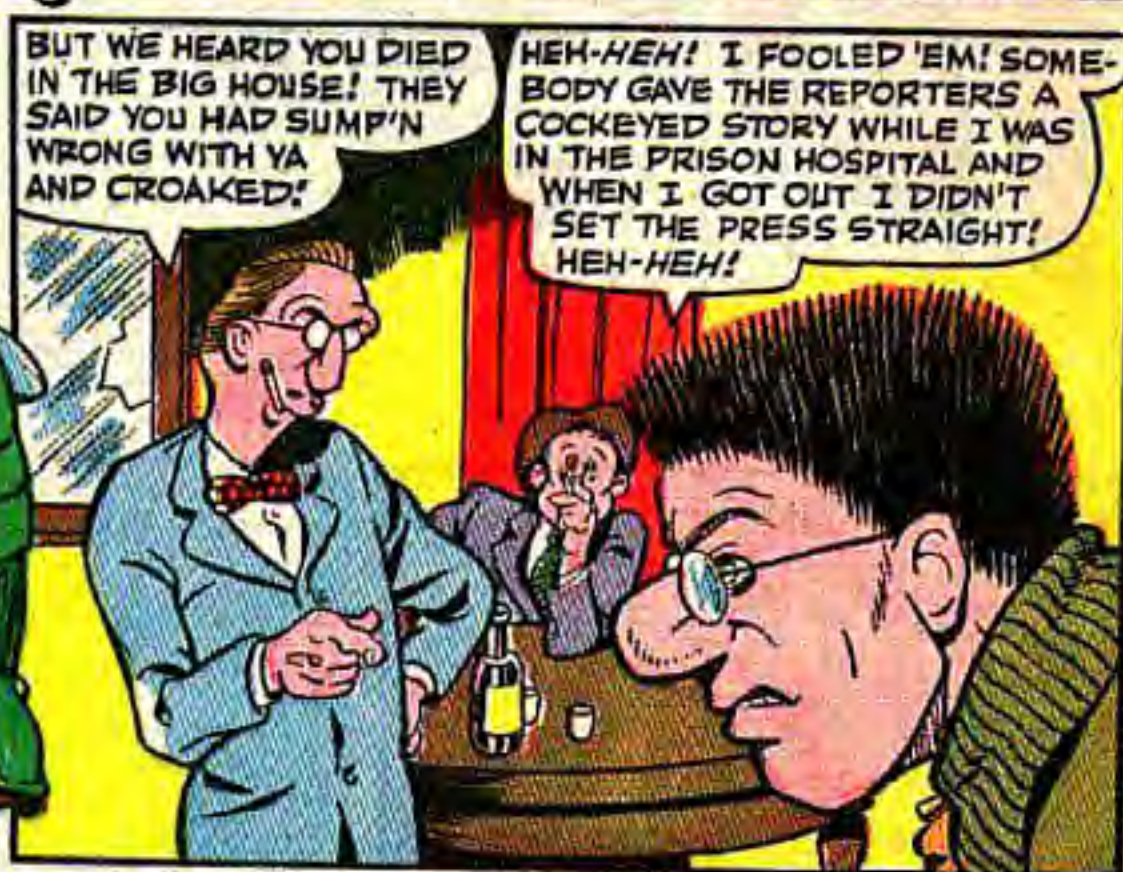
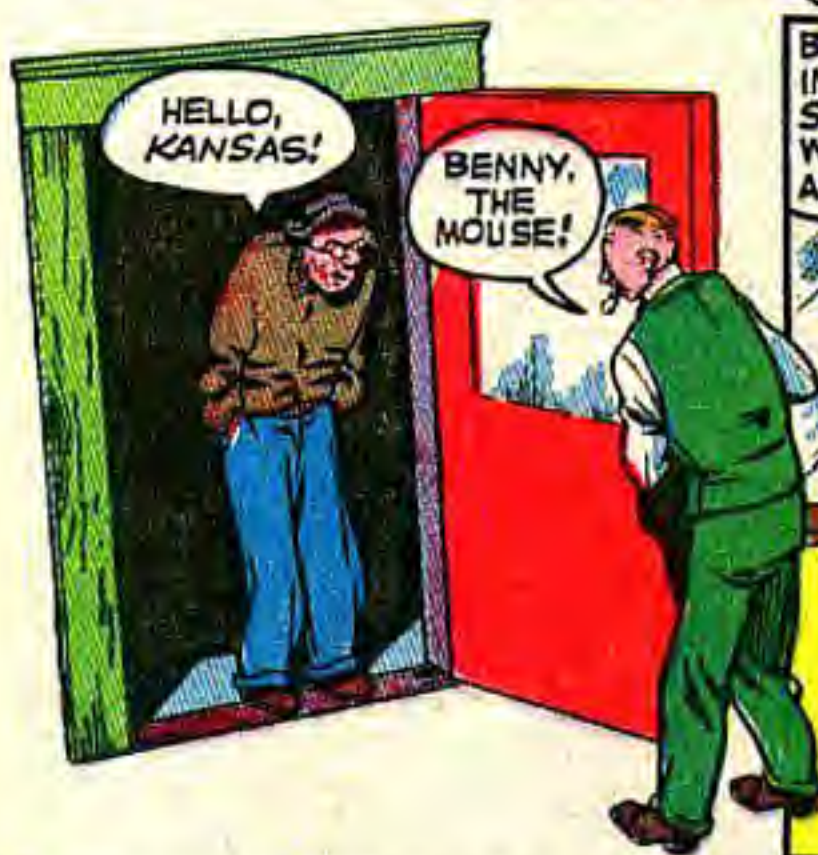






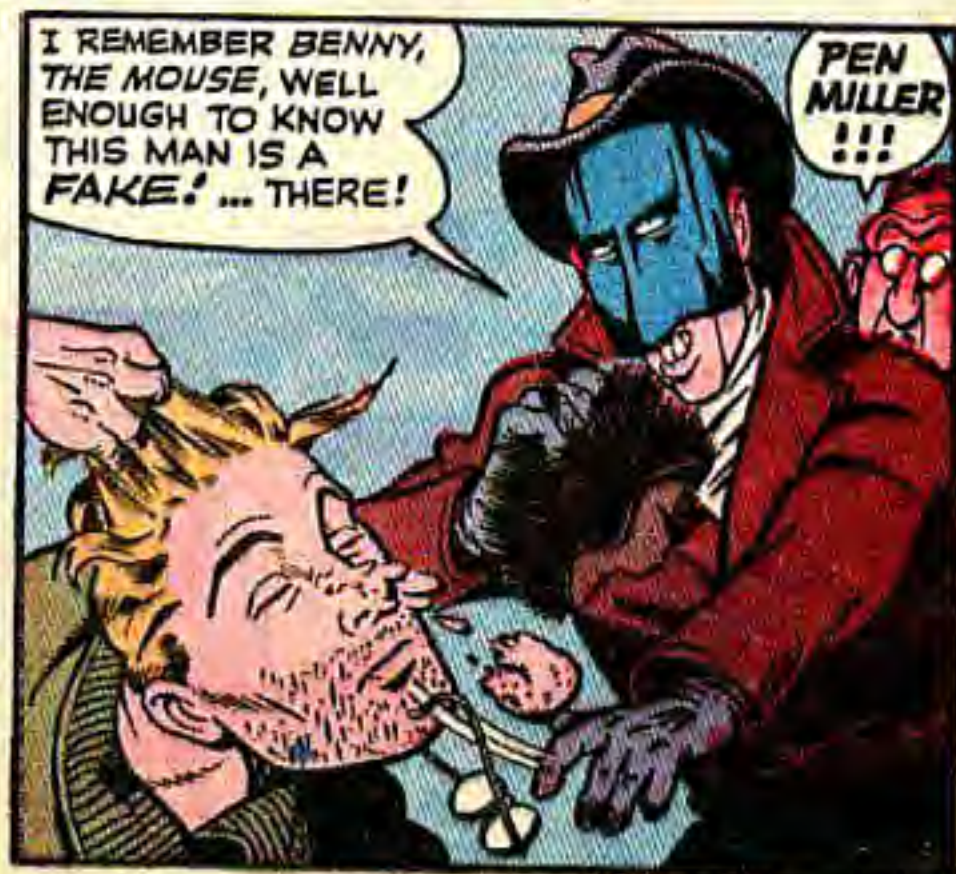


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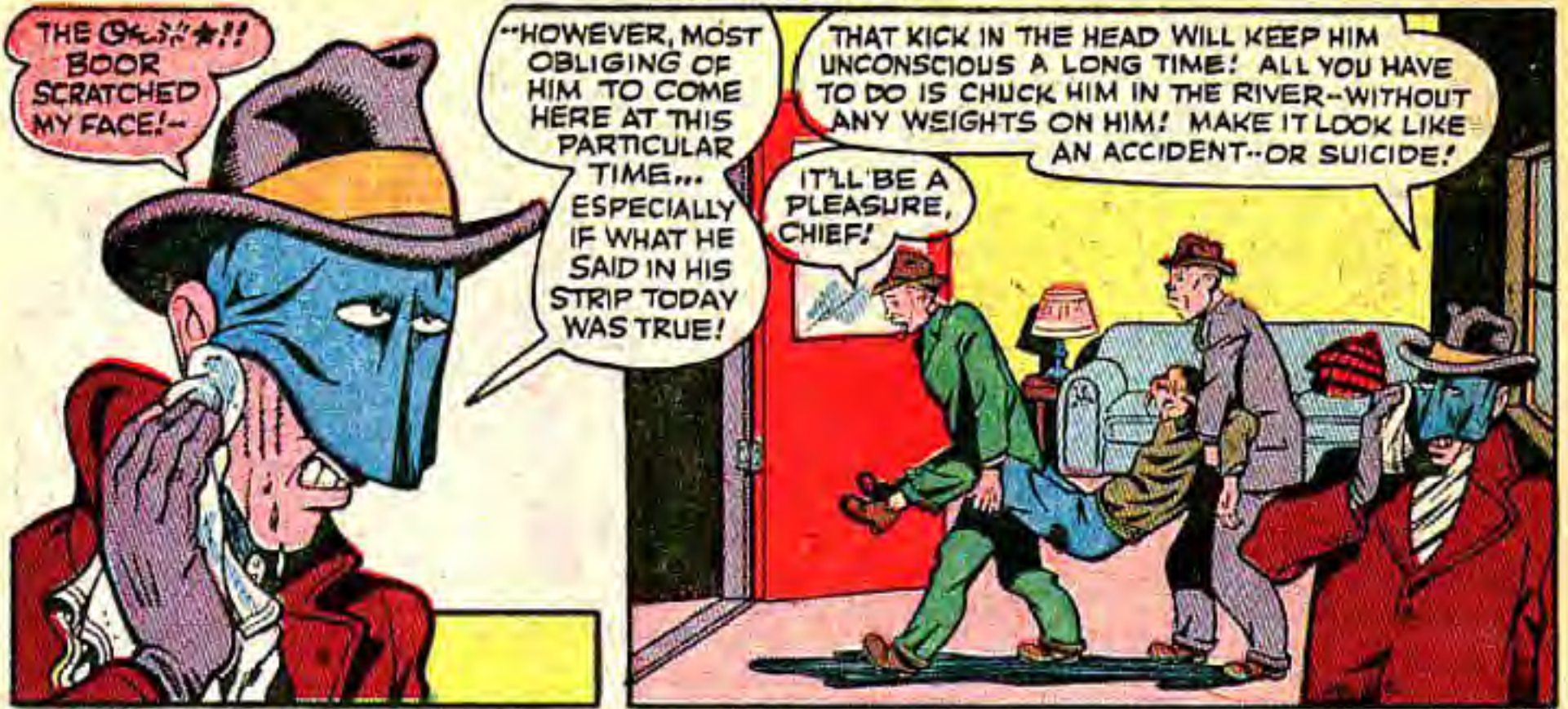


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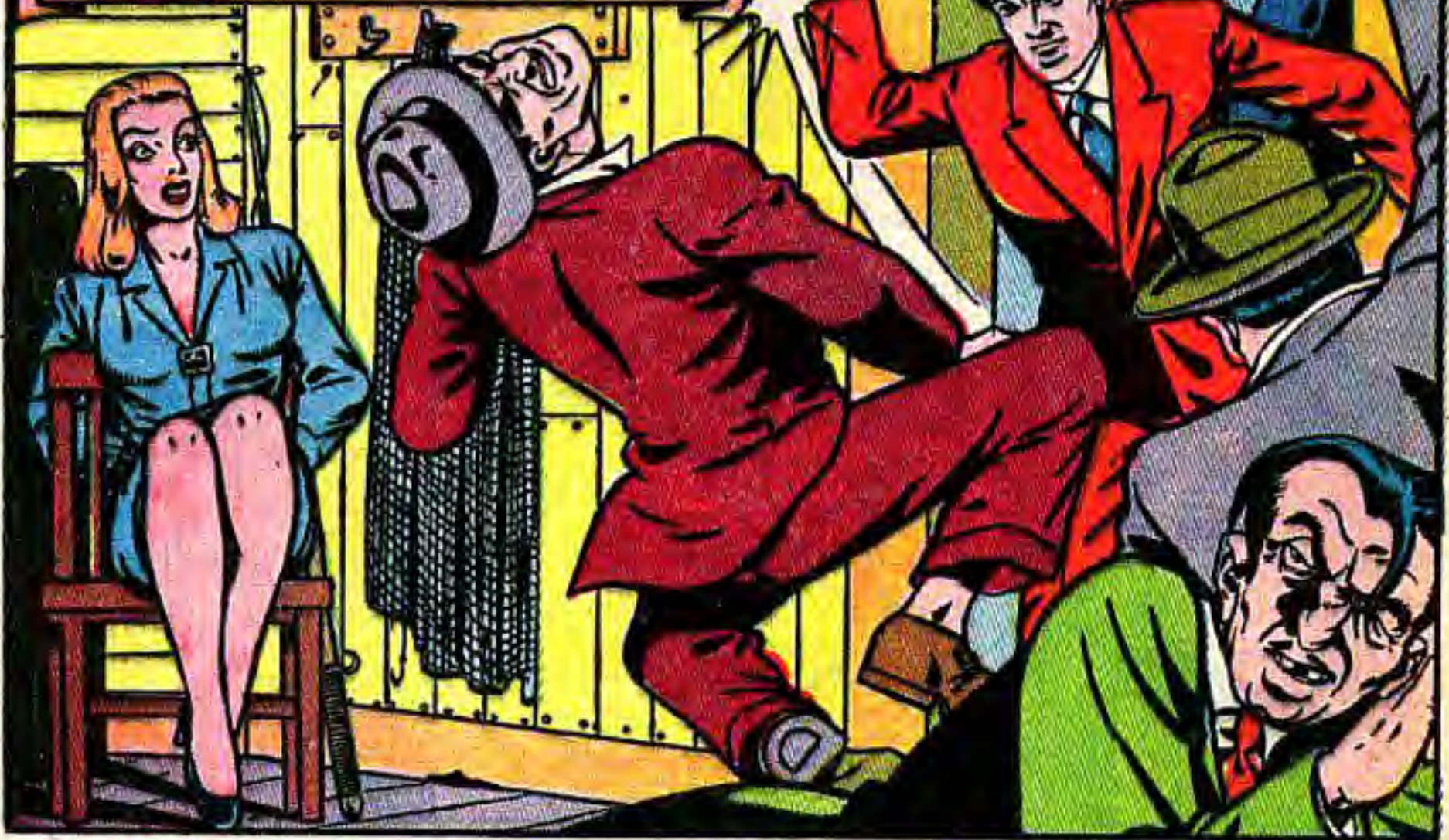




# HACK O'HARA

by  
VERNON  
HENKEL

Nobody could say Hack O'Hara, New York's toughest cabby, is exactly the *fatherly* type - but when one of Hack's steady customers gets in trouble, it makes Hack sore...especially when it's due to cost Hack some money!



Hack leaves the garage for his evening run...

HEY, HACK! WAIT UP! I GOT A CALL FROM 310 CHESTNUT FOR --

CAB COMPANY

NO, YOU DON'T MCGILLICUDY! GIVE IT TO FEINBERG OR MURPHY...



YOU KNOW MY FIRST FARE EVERY NIGHT IS THAT SUPER DELUXE STREAMLINED-MODEL BLONDE WHO ALWAYS TIPS A BUCK AND A SMILE!

SOMETIMES I THINK YOU GOT A CRUSH ON THAT BABE, HACK!



OH-OH! THERE SHE IS - AND THERE'S THAT LOUSE OF A HALF-BROTHER RIDING HER FOR DOUGH AGAIN!

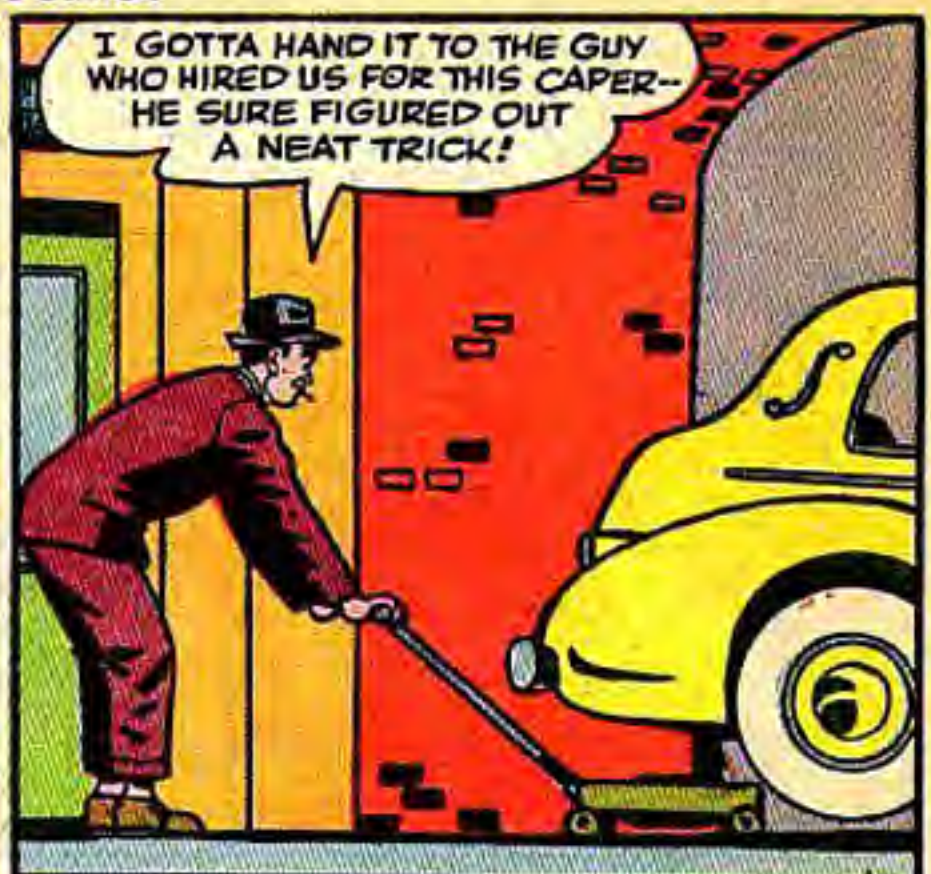
BUT NORA, I'VE GOT TO HAVE FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS RIGHT AWAY!



















THIS IS NO SNATCH!  
IT'S MURDER- AND HER  
BODY'LL BE FOUND  
EXACTLY A CERTAIN  
DISTANCE FROM HERE  
TO COINCIDE WITH  
MY METER...



TWENTY-ONE MILES! ... THAT'S  
TEN MILES EACH WAY, PLUS A  
LITTLE FOR TRAFFIC! I'VE GOT  
TO LOCATE NORA!



THAT JACK COULD HAVE  
COME FROM HERE! THEY'RE  
TOO BIG TO CARRY AROUND  
--AND THIS SPOT IS NEAR  
THE ALLEY!



USED MY JACK?  
HAW! NOBODY'S  
USED NOTHING  
AROUND HERE,  
SEE! NOW BEAT  
IT! YOU'RE WASTIN'  
MY TIME...

HMMM!  
WHEN A  
GUY GETS  
TOUGH  
OVER A  
SIMPLE  
QUESTION,  
I FIGURE HE'S  
COVERING UP  
SOMETHING--



THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT A  
HEAVY WRENCH! NOW SPIT  
OUT THE TRUTH--OR I'LL  
BEAT BUMPS ON YOUR  
SKULL!

AWRRRK!  
LEMME GO! I  
AIN'T DONE  
NOTHIN'!  
I'LL TALK!



IT WAS BALDY EGGAN BORROWED  
THE JACK TONIGHT! HE GIMME A  
TEN-SPOT TO KEEP STILL ABOUT IT!

IF I HAD TIME I'D  
GIVE YOU A FEW SLUGS  
MYSELF--WITH  
THIS WRENCH!



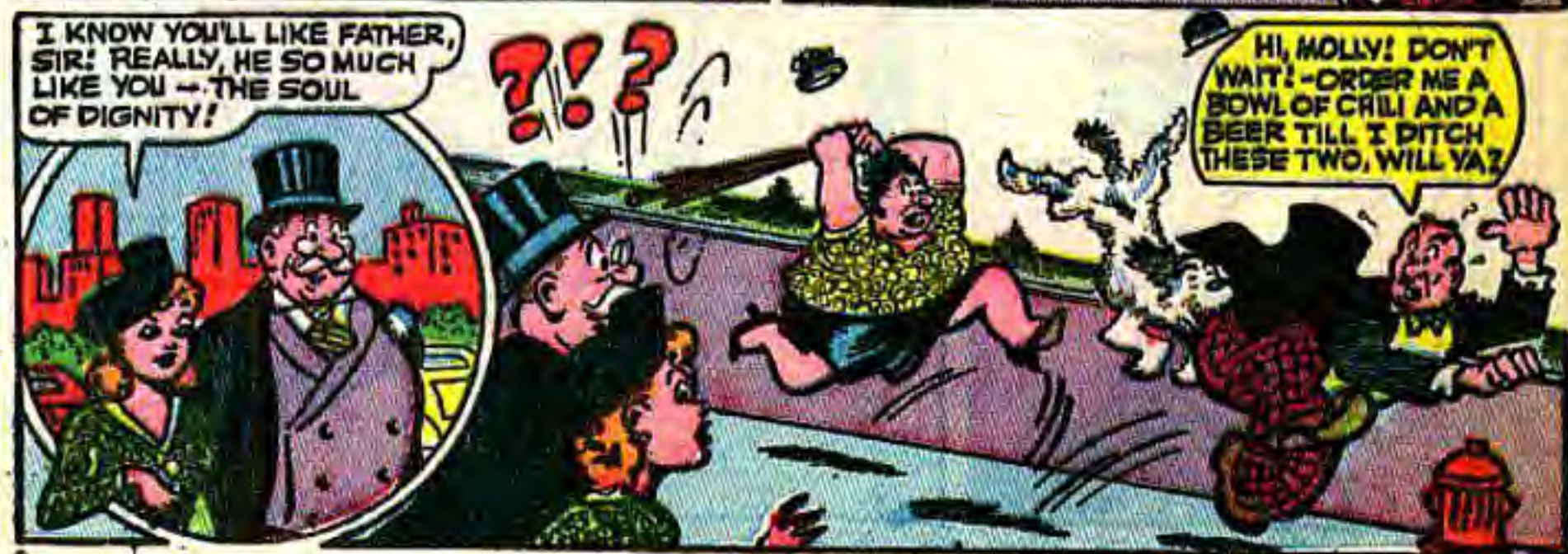
BALDY EGGAN AND SNITCH REED!  
THEY USED TO USE AN OLD FISHING  
SHACK ABOUT TEN MILES OUT! I  
HOPE I'M RIGHT--AND IN TIME...







# MOLLY THE MODEL





# MOLLY THE MODEL





# MOLLY THE MODEL



WHAT IS THAT SMELL?

NO MAN COULD EVER STAND A PERFUME LIKE THAT!

WELL, YOU INVENT A PERFUME THAT EVERY MAN WILL LIKE AND YOU'LL BE A MILLIONAIRE!

A MILLIONAIRE?

PERFUME EVERY MAN WILL LIKE?

WHY NOT?

I'LL JUST MARK DOWN ALL THE THINGS I LIKE BEST AND TAKE THE ESSENCE FROM EACH!

NOW TO BLEND ALL THEM WONDERFUL ODORS INTO ONE WHOLE OF A PERFUME AND CALL IT MALONEY'S MOONLIGHT SOUL-KISS!

WHAT LUCK! HERE COMES THE WIDOW BAGABUX, RICHEST DAME IN TOWN -- MAYBE I CAN GET HER TO BACK ME!



LATER



A THRILLING NEW PERFUME -- IRRESISTABLE TO MEN? REALLY, NOW -- ARE YOU JESTING?

MY OWN SECRET INVENTION! I ONLY ASK YOU TRY IT ONCE!



I CAN'T WAIT TILL I GET HOME TO SEE IF BY SOME CHANCE THE MAN MIGHT BE RIGHT!



ONCE THE LADS START CHASING THE OLD GIRL, SHE'LL BEG TO SET ME UP IN BUSINESS!

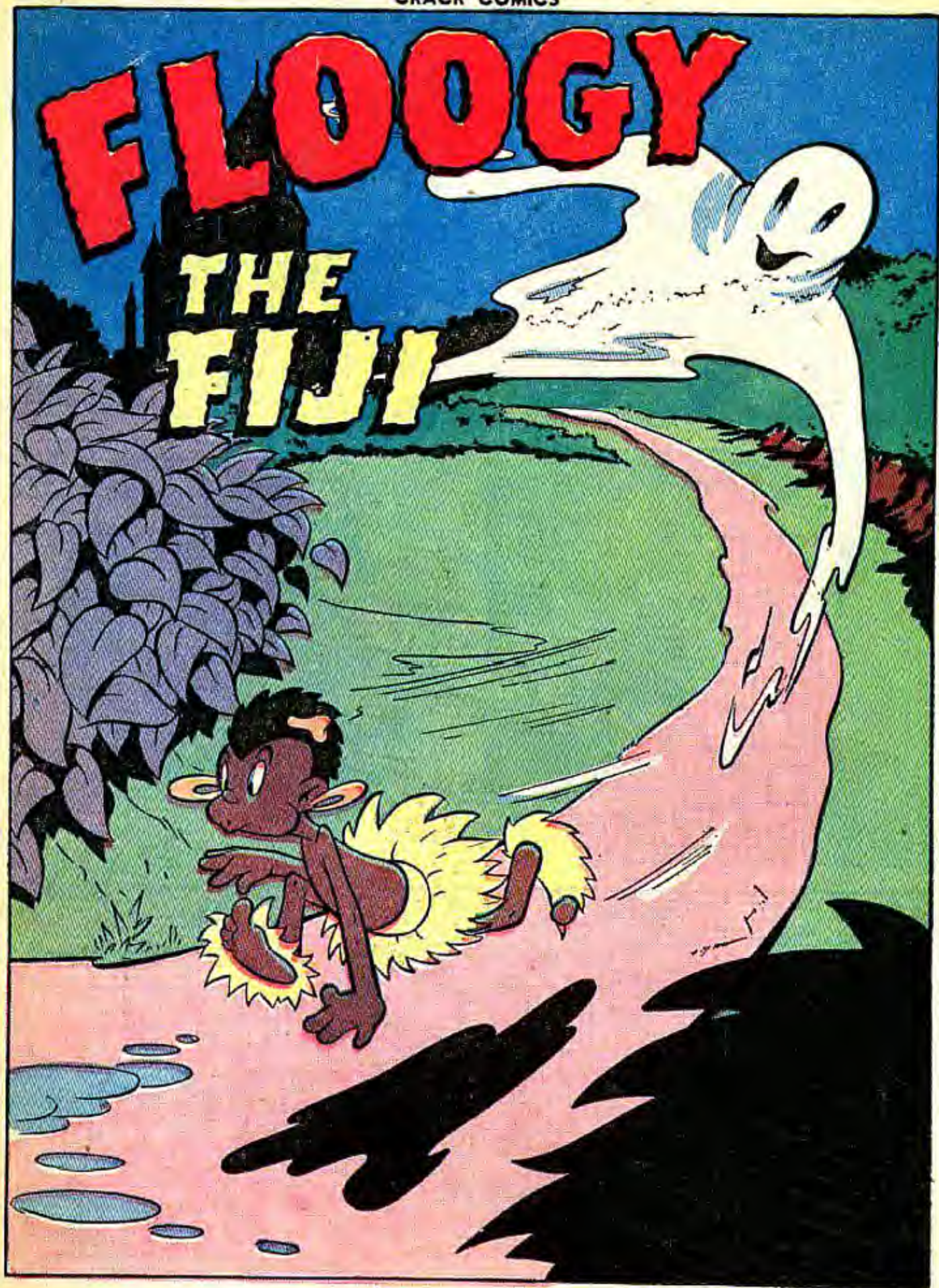
AND THEN WATCH THE DOUGH ROLL IN!



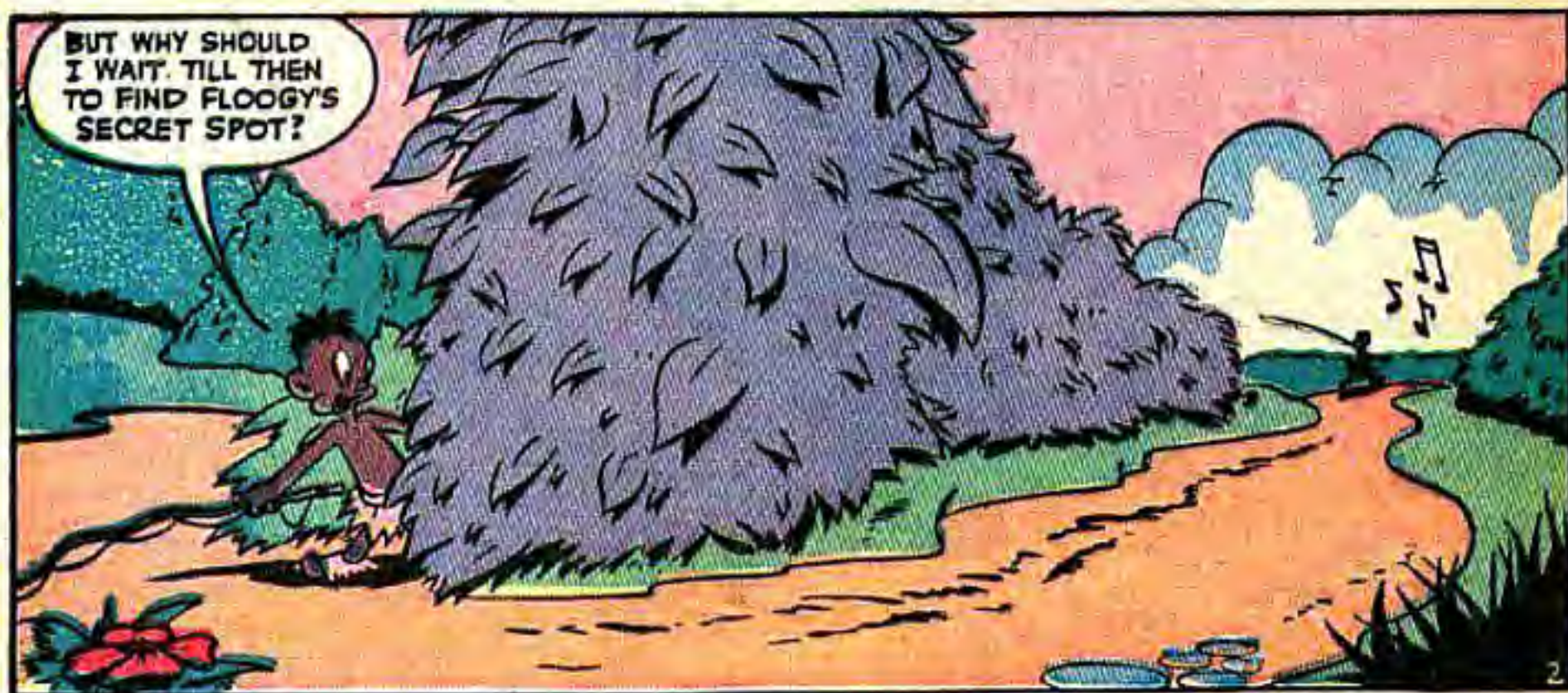
EEEE YOW!

GOSH -- I FORGOT THE AROMA OF CHICKEN GRAVY AND SHERRIED SALMON ALSO FASCINATES POOCHES AND CATS!





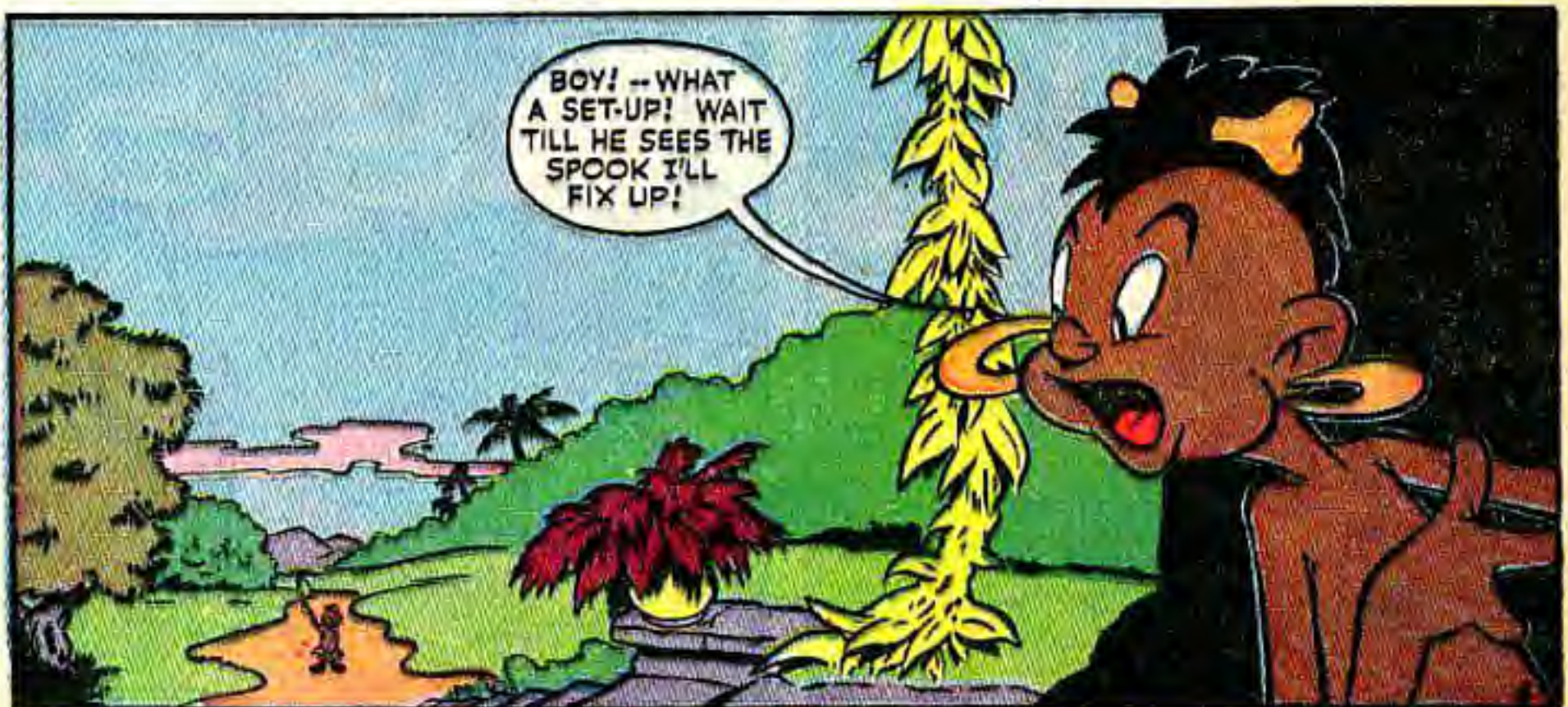














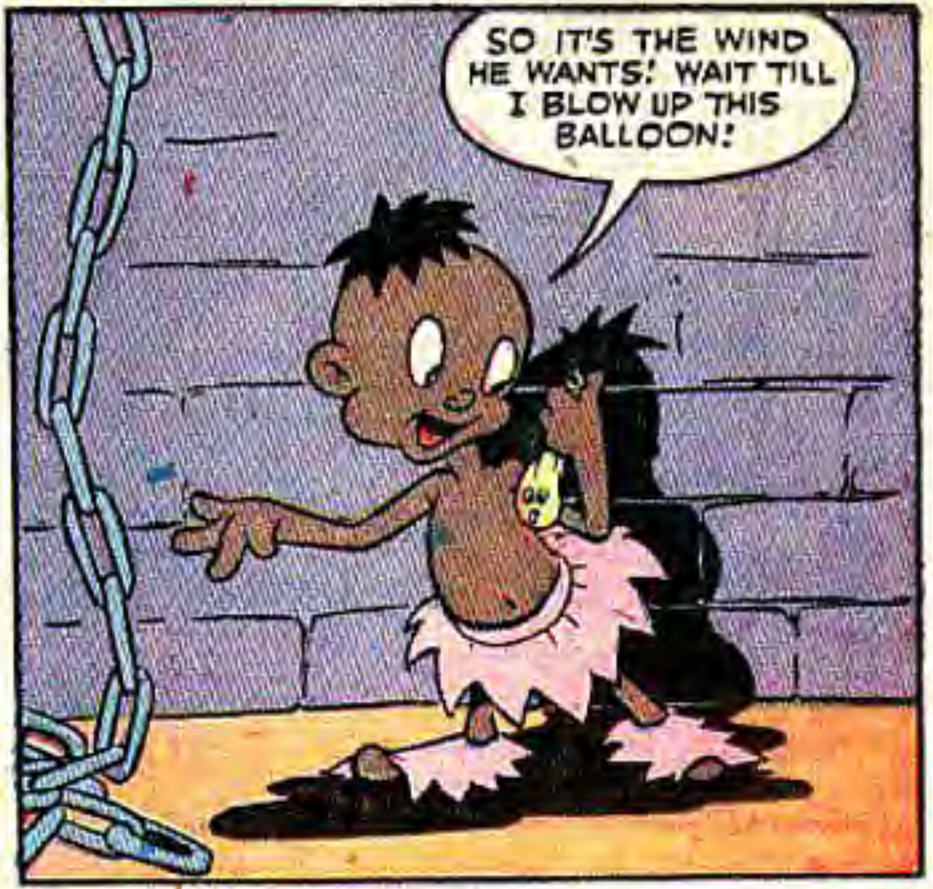








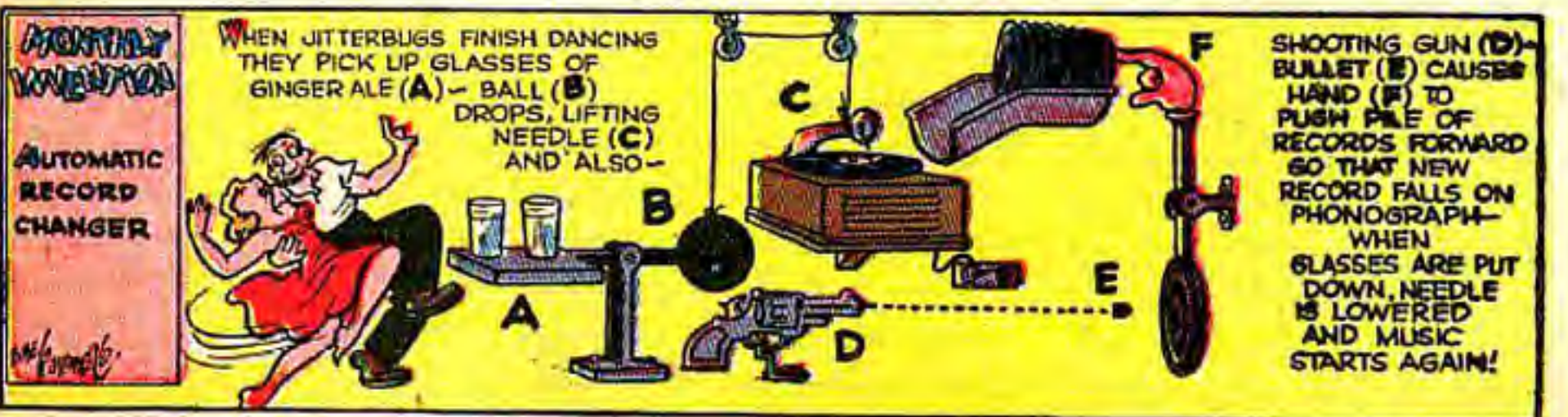
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# The PONTINE MARSHES

**WE** have been hearing plenty about the Pontine Marshes of late since our boys are over in Italy slowly but surely knocking out the Nazis. They had to cross some of these extensive marshes when entering Rome. But the real story behind the marshes lies in shadowy history — a history which Eric Vale dug up recently in order to clarify the question of just what these famed marshes are famed for.

The Pontine Marshes were once a rich district dotted with prosperous cities. As early as the time of the Roman Republic the lowering of the coastal level was causing the blocking of the outlets of the rivers and the gradual formation of marshes.

Their proximity to Rome and the fact that from time immemorial they have been a breeding place for malaria are the origin of the term Roman fever. This scourge has caused the death of numerous pontiffs in the Lateran Palace and has exacted a toll of countless thousands among the poor of Rome.

The first notable attempt to drain the marshes was made in 162 B. C. during

the Roman Republic under the consul, Cornelio Catego. During the long period of wars that followed, the Pontine lands remained abandoned and the waters made further inroads.

It remained for Julius Caesar, the greatest engineer of ancient Rome, to conceive a plan to reclaim hundreds of thousands of acres of farm land and also to free from inundation the Appian Way, the famous road traversing the swamps to the sea.

Caesar's untimely assassination ended the enterprise. The Emperor Traiano raised the level of the Appian Way, paving it with great blocks of stone. He built bridges and fine public buildings along the way. This involved the reclamation of considerable swamp land. Emperor Teodorico reclaimed areas near Terracina. Then followed the dark ages when all the works in the Pontine Marshes were allowed to sink into complete neglect.

Charlemagne endowed the Papal See with vast dominions. In these dominions were included the Pontine marshes. Early Popes conceived the plan of draining the marshes, but they were

constrained to devote their energies to maintaining order and to defending the Papal States against the arrogant pretensions of feudal lords.

Pope Boniface VIII was at last able to resume the work of the Roman emperors and ordered the digging of a ditch to carry off waters in the territory of Sermoneta. Martin V attempted to carry out his plans. In 1514 the brilliant Pope Leo X charged his brother, Giuliano de Medici, with solving the problem of the marshes. Happily, Giuliano entrusted the execution to the versatile Leonardo da Vinci, the greatest engineer of the era. A map drawn by Leonardo, showing his projected canals, is to be seen in the collection at Windsor. The great Leonardo could not be spared from the works of art so dear to the Medici Pope, and the actual execution of the drainage was left to the geometrician Scotti. Large areas were actually reclaimed for cultivation in the vicinity of Ser and Terracina.

Under the pontificates of Innocent XI and Innocent XII progress was made. In 1699 the latter confided the work to a Hollander, Corne-



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lius Meyer. Besides the physical difficulties encountered, the Popes were constantly met with legal actions by various landowners, many of them powerful.

All down through the ages we find such rich landowners thwarting progress, staying advancement.

In 1810, during the occupation of Italy, Napoleon named a commission of distinguished engineers to complete the work of Pius VI. The studies of the commission were afterwards published in Paris in 1818 by de Prony, named by Napoleon as its president.

During the early attempts to dry the marshes, canals were dug to drain certain desired areas and these canals were emptied into either the Ninfa River or the Sisto River. No thought was taken whether new areas would be flooded in the lands below sea level. It remained for Premier Mussolini to finally conquer the Pontine marshes, probably one of the only really important things he ever did for the country.

For the first time, the problem of draining the swamps was attacked as a whole. Canals were dug along the boundaries of the district at the foot of the mountains to divert the "high" or extraneous waters. Canals were also utilized to carry off the "middle" waters from the lands barely above sea level. Other canals were provided to carry off the "low" waters.

Finally, twelve hydraulic pumps, operated by electric power, were built to pump the water from fever-breed-

ing areas below sea level into canals sufficiently elevated to permit the flow of the waters into the sea. The greatest of these hydraulic plants is that of Mazzocchio. Inaugurated by Il Duce in 1934, this plant has seven huge electric pumps, the most perfect of their kind known at the time of their installation. The plant of Mazzocchio efficiently drains about 22 thousand acres.

To one motoring on the excellent roads of the Agro Pontino, a magic wand appears to have been waved over the land. The dark and miserable conical huts that sheltered the poor nomads have gone with the marshes. Solid concrete farmhouses of five and six rooms (large and well-ventilated rooms) dot the landscape.

Wheat, fruits and sugar beets are among the principal crops. Fine strains of foreign stock have been imported to improve the cattle. Beet sugar factories have been erected. The 2,600 completed farms have been allotted to colonists selected from the excess rural population. This policy retards the drift to the cities, a problem in many countries, and also results in competent agriculturists taking up the land.

Trees and beautiful flower beds are common everywhere in the region. Birds sing, where once only mosquitoes buzzed and the heavy haze of malarial death hung over everything.

This undertaking can be compared to the drainage of part of our own Southern lands in years past. It has

been the means of saving thousands of lives which otherwise were constantly open to attacks of virulent fevers and a multitude of sickness.

For every 25 thousand to 50 thousand acres of land a rural community is created. The larger towns are named Littoria, Sabaudia, Pontinia and Aprilia. Il Duce had always in mind the raising of the standards of living in Italy, and each community has its well-equipped schools, community center, and other civic buildings. In the center of each town is a handsome church of simple lines and austere architecture.

For 2,000 years emperors and Popes sought to conquer the pestilent marshes. Three master builders, Caesar, Leo X, and Napoleon failed. The day of modern engineering and hydro-electric power had not yet arrived. It remained for Premier Mussolini, with the dedication of the last new colony of Aprilia, to realize their dream.

In past weeks hundreds of our soldiers have been killed and wounded in these famous marshes, many of them perhaps not aware that they lay on soil that for ages a great war had been waged—a war to conquer pestilence and worthlessness.

Many of the little towns that dotted the new landscape of these regions have been razed by Nazi and Allied bombs and shells, but even so they are still better off than they were under Nazi oppression—as the farmers of the area will tell you.



# INKIE

by  
AL STAHL

LOOKIT!  
THERE'S  
INKIE!

DIDN'T HE  
USED TO  
BE A  
SHRIMP?

YEAH!

SURE! HE  
WAS ONCE  
THE **SIZE**  
OF YOUR  
PINKY!

AND NOW  
HE'S A  
**GIANT!**

I  
WONDER  
WHAT  
HAPPENED?

GOLLY!



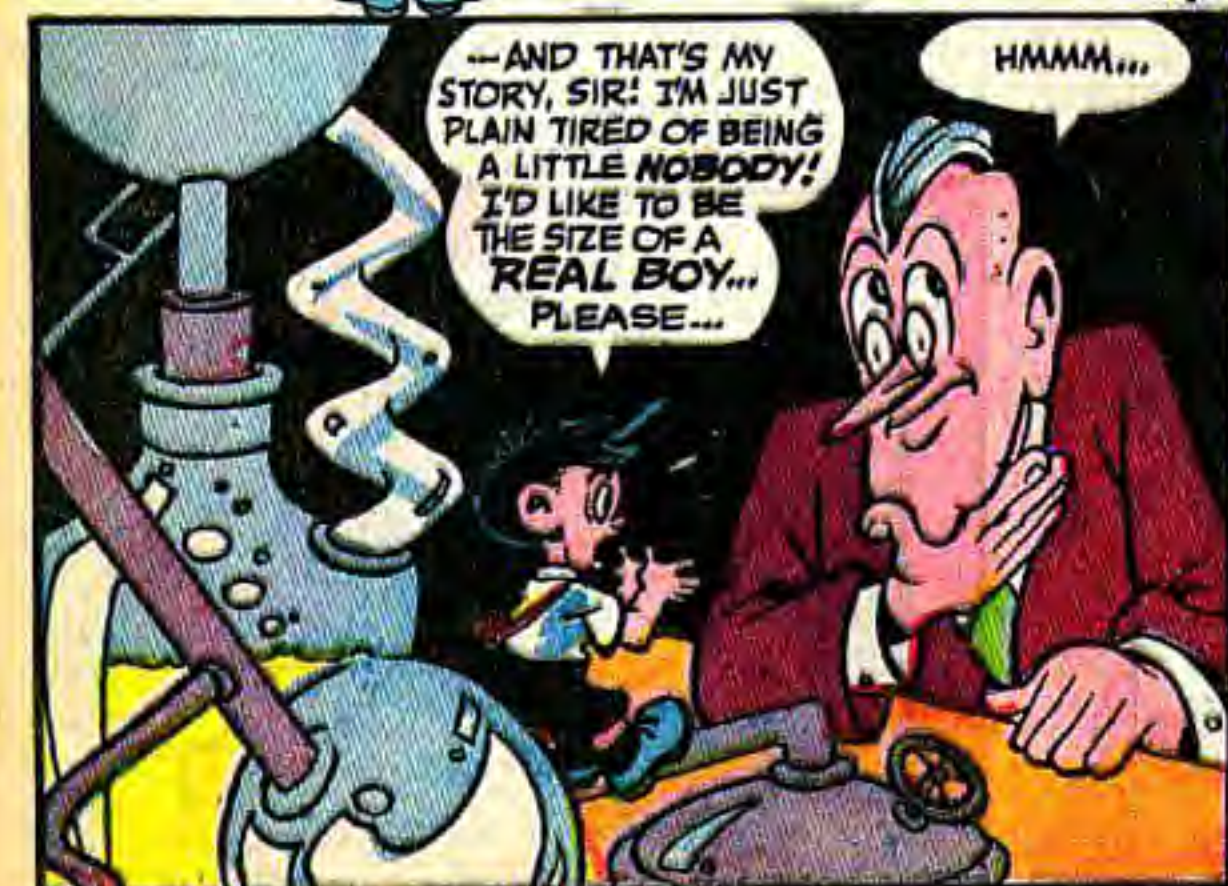
SOB! WHY WAS I BORN SO  
**SMALL!** EVERYONE TREATS ME  
AS A **MERE TRIFLE!** BESIDES, I  
CAN'T DO ALL THE THINGS THAT  
**BIG PEOPLE DO!** SOB!

I CAN'T GO THROUGH LIFE SLIPPING  
**UNDER DOORS** OR THROUGH **KEYHOLES**  
OR HIDING IN **VEST POCKETS!** I WANT  
TO DO  
SOMETHING  
**EXCITING**  
AND  
**DIFFERENT!**



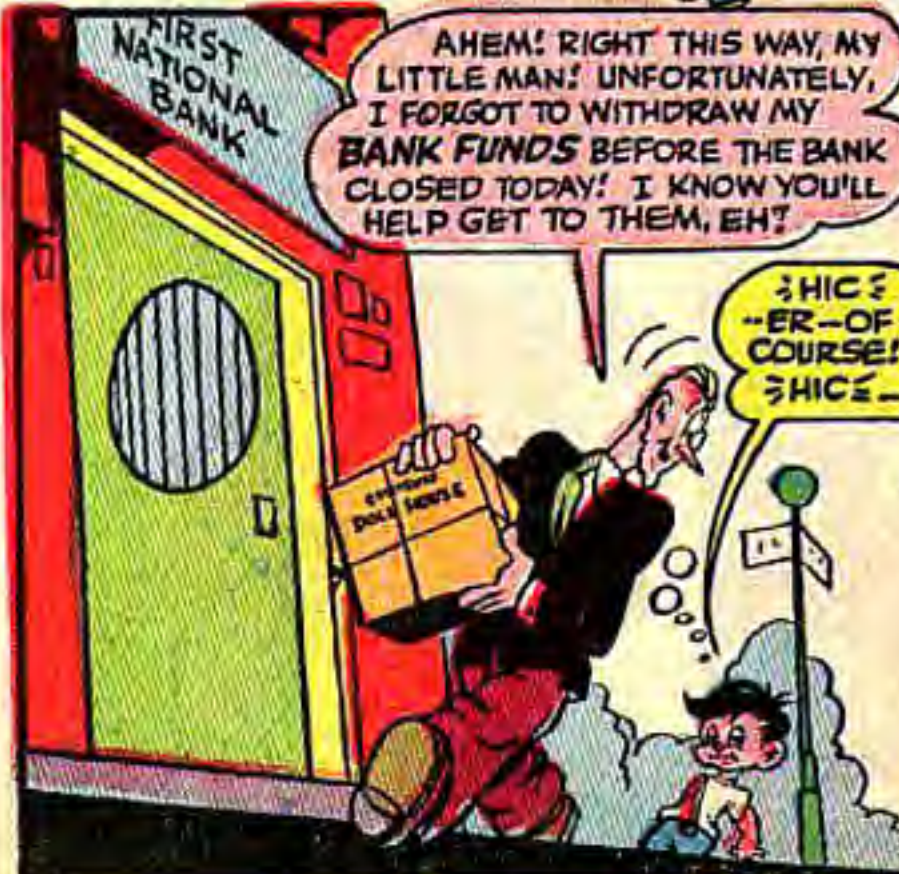
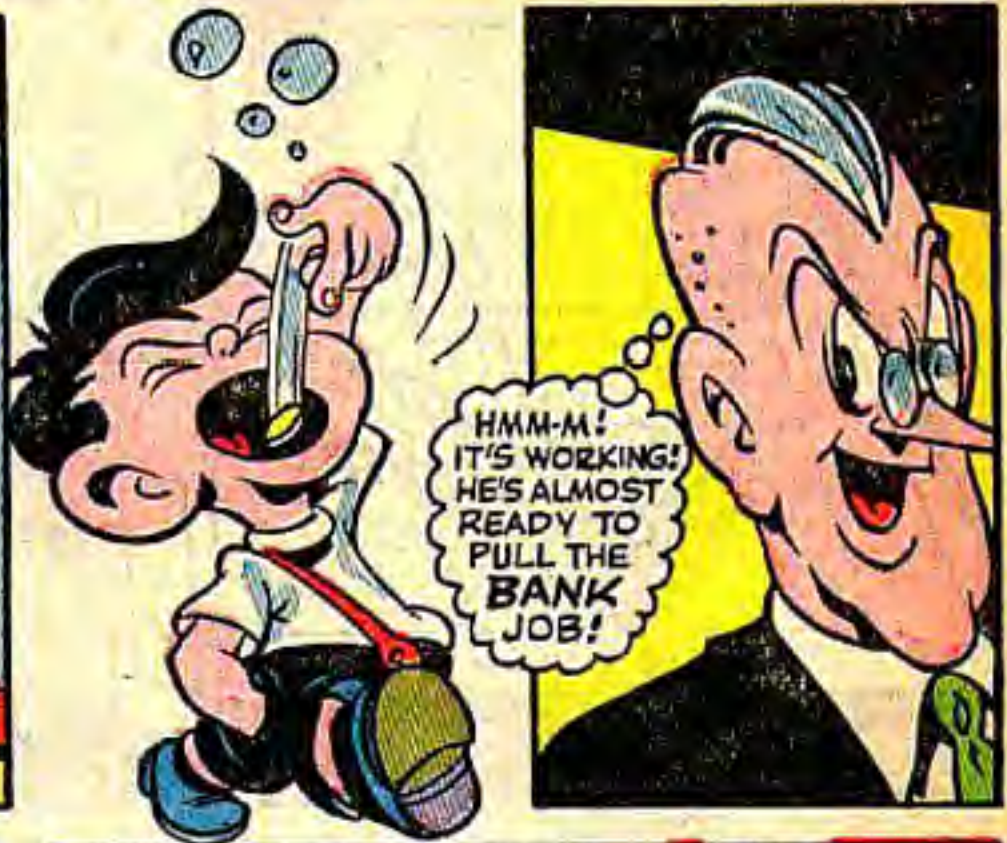
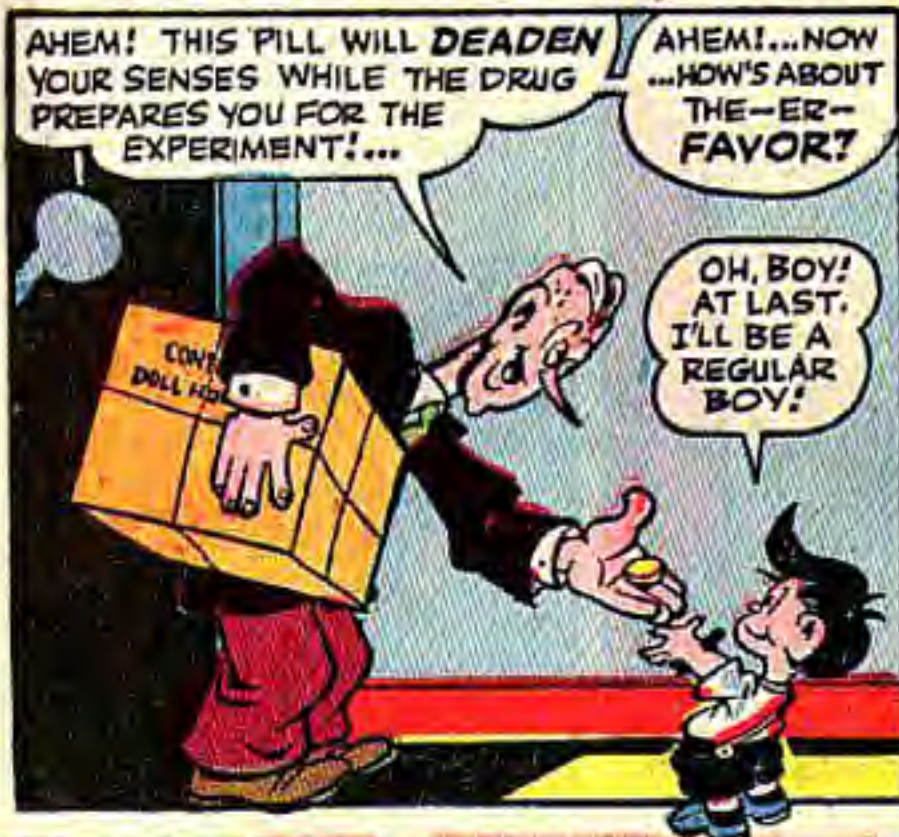
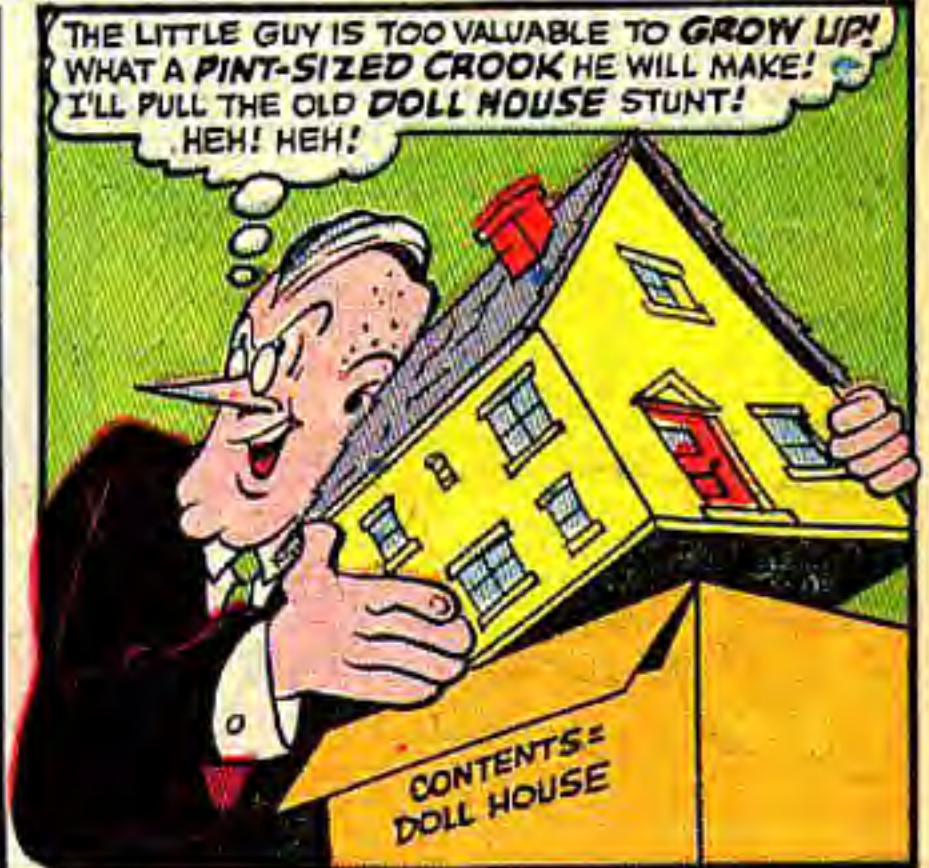
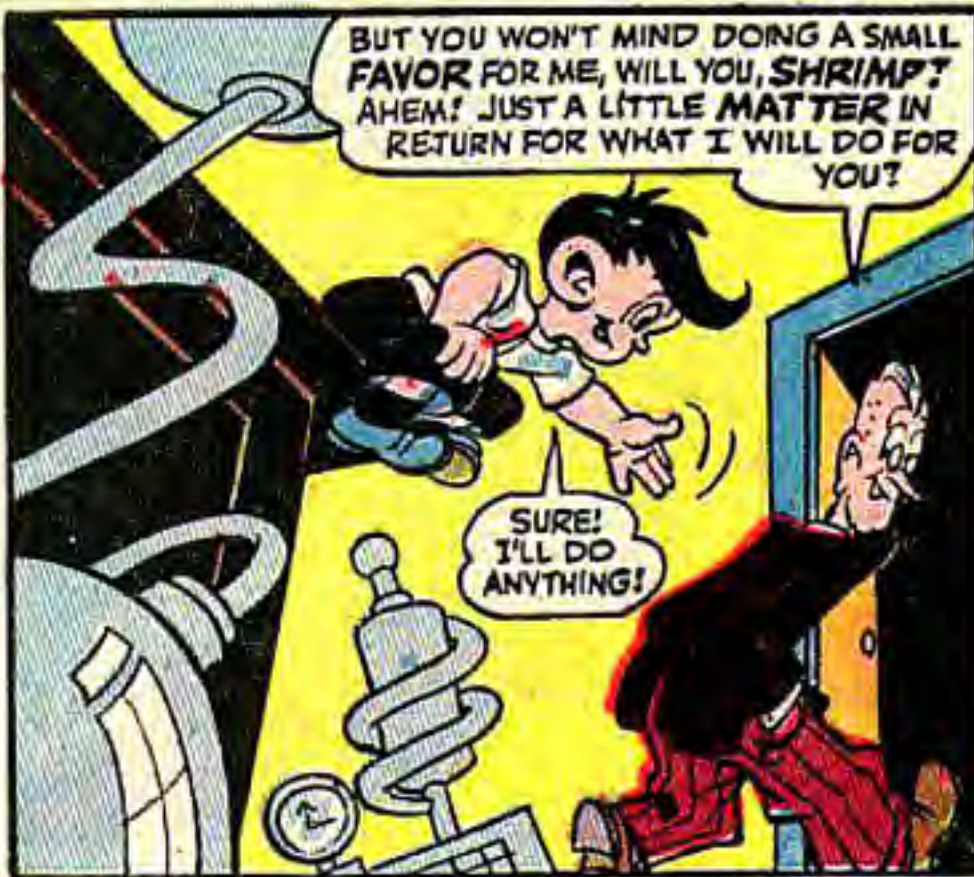


THERE'S A FAMOUS CRIMINAL SCIENTIST WHO IS ALWAYS MAKING EXTRA ARMS OR DOUBLE HEADS OR SOMETHING FOR THE PROFESSIONAL CROOK! HE'S MY MAN!





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THE DIRTY CROOK!... HE DRUGGED ME AN'... HUHT GOLLY!... LOOKIT EVERYTHING!.. IT--IT'S SMALL AND--GEE-- THAT MEANS I'VE GROWN! WOW!



SUCCESS! IT WORKED! I'M A BIG BOY! YIPPEE! THIS IS WONDERFUL! THE WHOLE WORLD LOOKS DIFFERENT AND EXCITING AND NEW! OH, BOY!



SO! THIS IS HOW IT FEELS TO SIT IN A REGULAR CHAIR AND ENJOY LIFE THE WAY GROWN PEOPLE DO! I'M THE HAPPIEST BIG BOY IN THE WORLD!



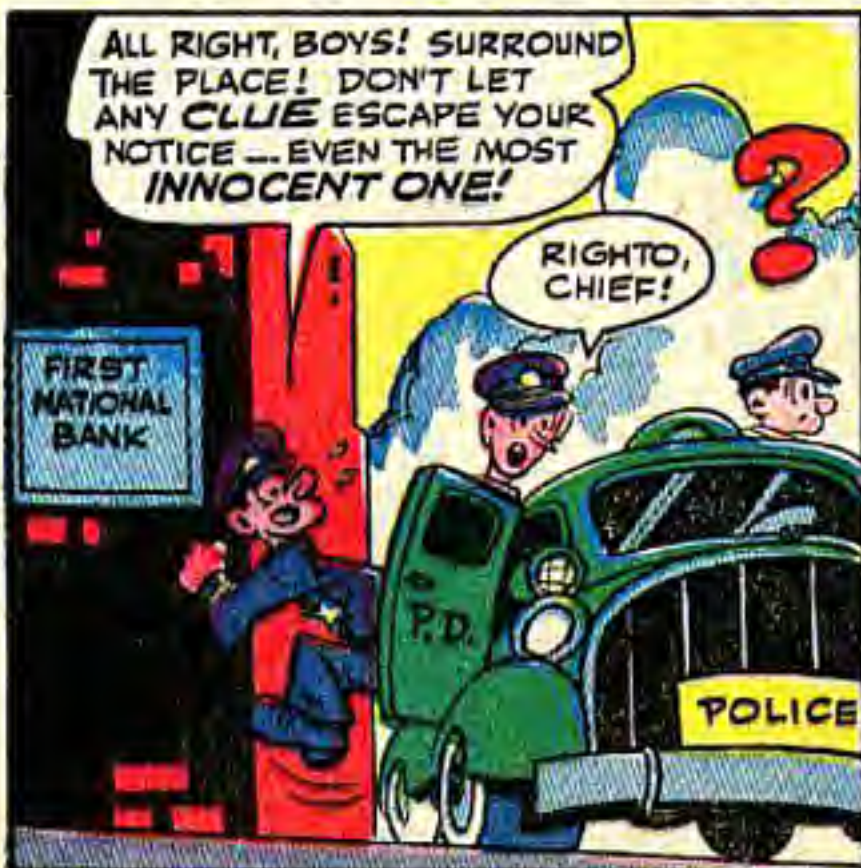
But...

EEEEEEEE! ATTENTION! POLICE CARS! BANK ROBBERY AT FIRST NATIONAL!



ALL RIGHT, BOYS! SURROUND THE PLACE! DON'T LET ANY CLUE ESCAPE YOUR NOTICE... EVEN THE MOST INNOCENT ONE!

RIGHTO, CHIEF!



AH-HA! VERY INTERESTING! A TIME BOMB CAMOUFLAGED AS A DOLL HOUSE PACKAGE!

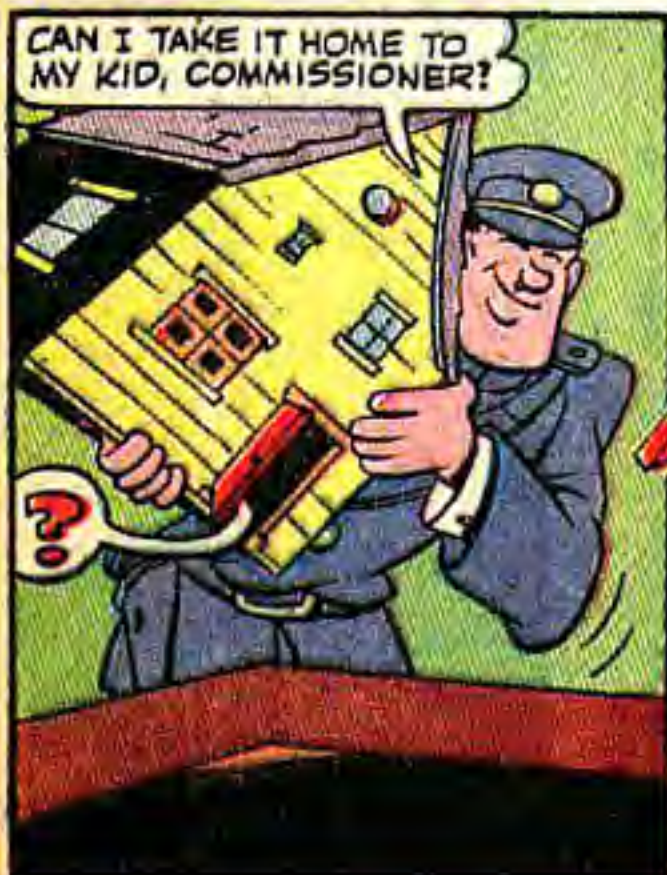
CAREFUL, CHIEF!

GULP! TH- THE POLICE!





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Y-Y-YOU SEE... I WAS A VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES- THAT IS -- I -- WELL, I WANTED TO BE A BIG BOY... SO... I...



WELL... PROFESSOR STEALUM WAS SUPPOSED TO EXPERIMENT AND MAKE ME GROW -- THEN- THE MONEY -- YOU **STOLE** IT?



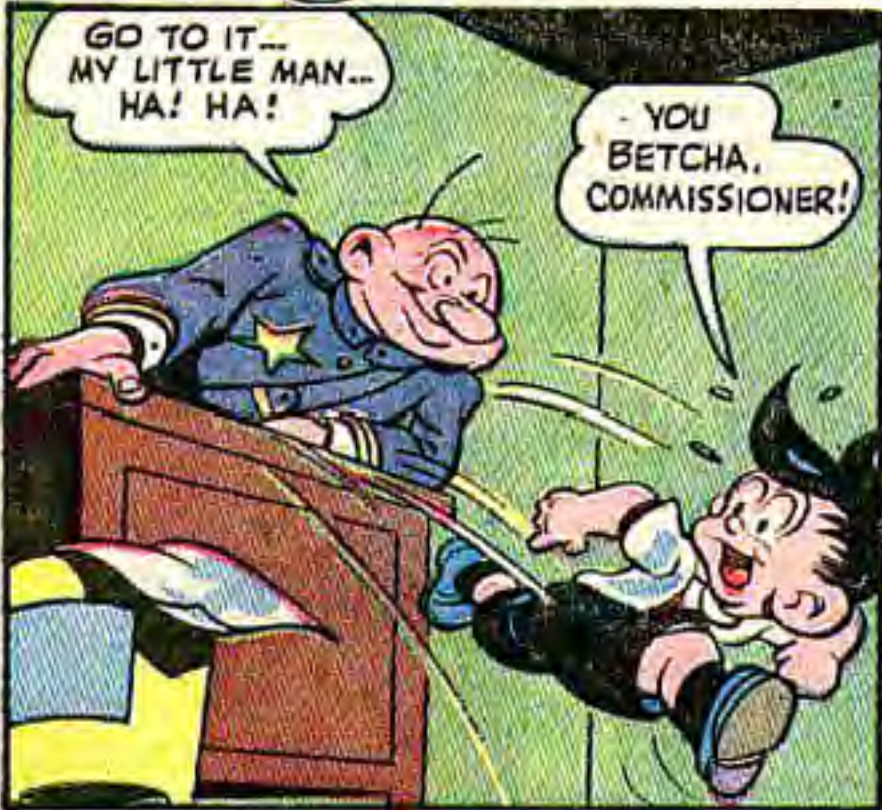
OH -- ER -- THE MONEY! YES- I MEAN **NO!**... I WAS **DRUGGED!**... YES... I...

OH, GEE, COMMISSIONER- GIVE ME ONE HOUR--AND I'LL BRING THAT STEALUM CROOK IN TO YOUR OFFICE... **HONEST!**

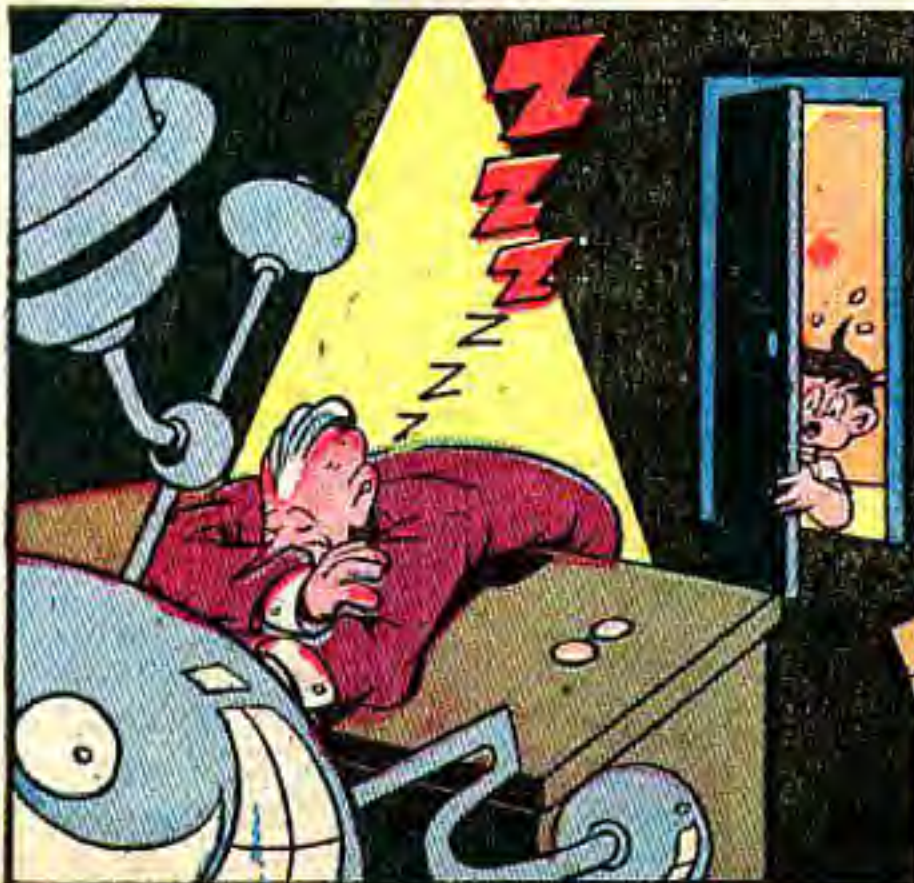
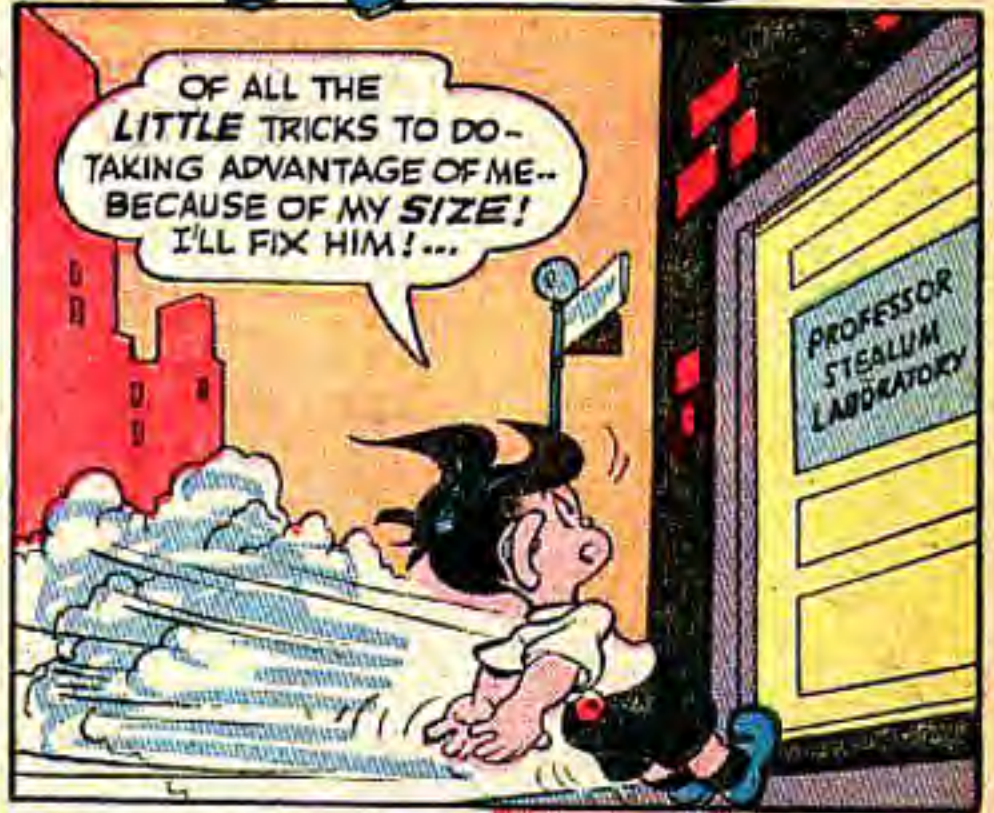


GO TO IT... MY LITTLE MAN... HA! HA!

- YOU BETCHA, COMMISSIONER!



OF ALL THE LITTLE TRICKS TO DO- TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ME-- BECAUSE OF MY **SIZE!** I'LL FIX HIM!...



HMMM-M!

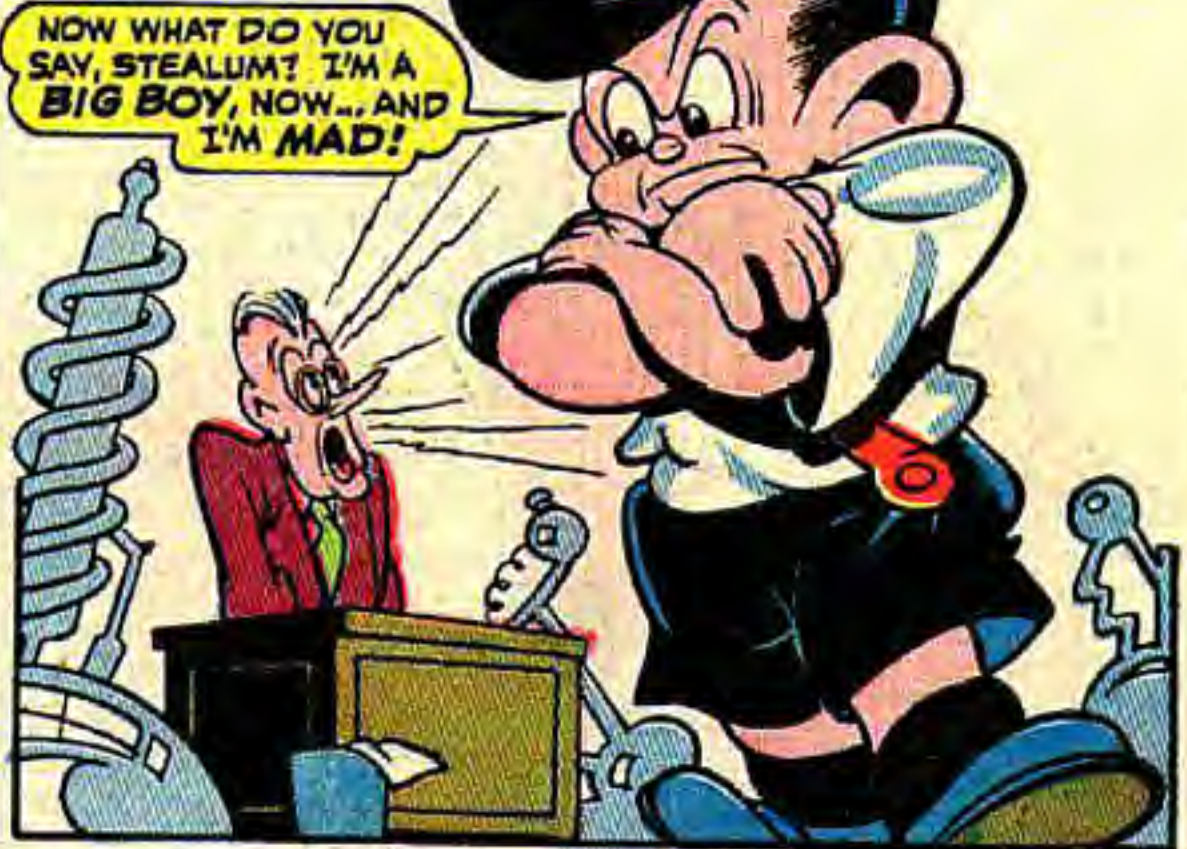


NOW, IF I CAN ONLY REACH HIS GLASSES BEFORE HE AWAKENS!





CRACK COMICS





# BEEZY

"LOVE can be a tragic thing when the fathers of the two people involved can agree on nothing but a mutual desire to take each other apart," bemoans Betty Bumble! ...

WHAT'S WRONG, SIS?

OH, I JUST KNOW NORMAN AND I CAN NEVER GET MARRIED!

WHY NOT?

YOU KNOW HOW DAD AND HIS FATHER HATE EACH OTHER.... OLD JUDGE PUFFYBUDDY WOULD RATHER SEE HIS SON IN JAIL THAN HAVE ANY BUMBLE FOR A BRIDE!

IT'S COME A CRISIS... THAT'S WHAT! OUR LOVE IS TOO DESPERATE AND DEATHLESS A THING TO BE STIFLED IN THIS MANNER!

YEH!

WISH I COULD HELP - BUT, GEE... THE JUDGE AND POP AIN'T EVEN SPEAKIN' RIGHT NOW!

IF THEY COULD JUST GET TOGETHER, MAYBE THEY'D FIND OUT THEY WEREN'T SUCH BAD GUYS AFTER ALL!

HELLO, BEEZY! YOU LOOK WORRIED!

HI, MISTER GEEVY!





CRACK COMICS



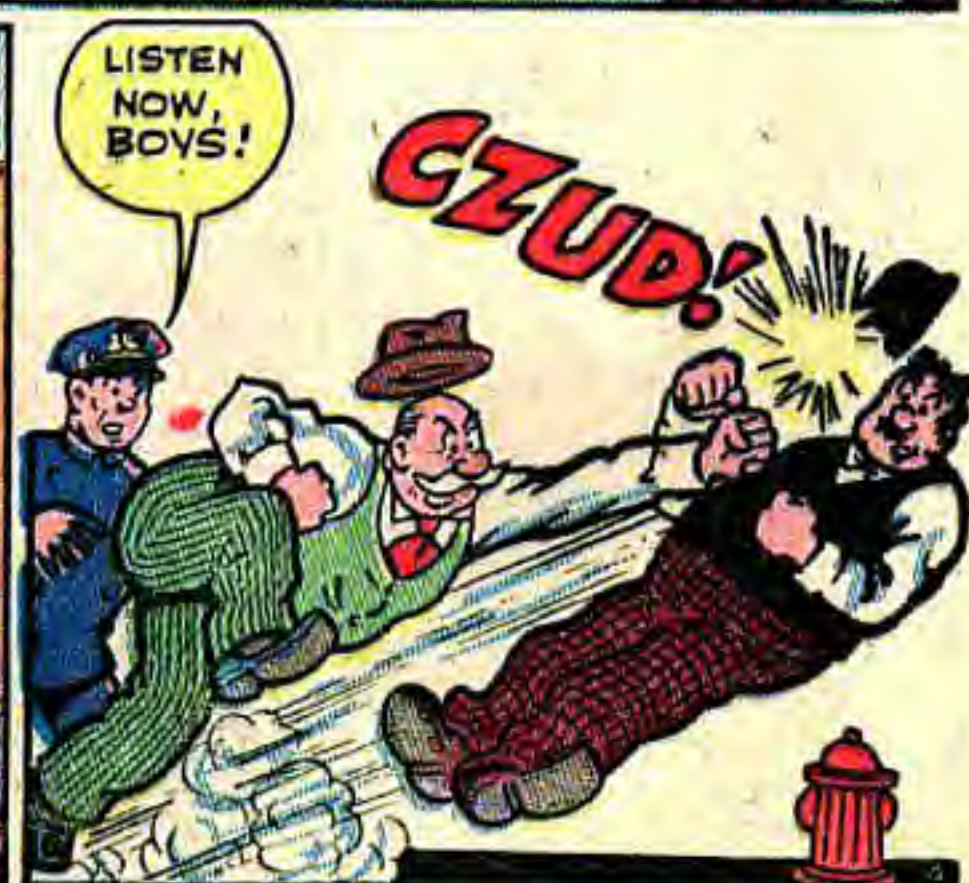


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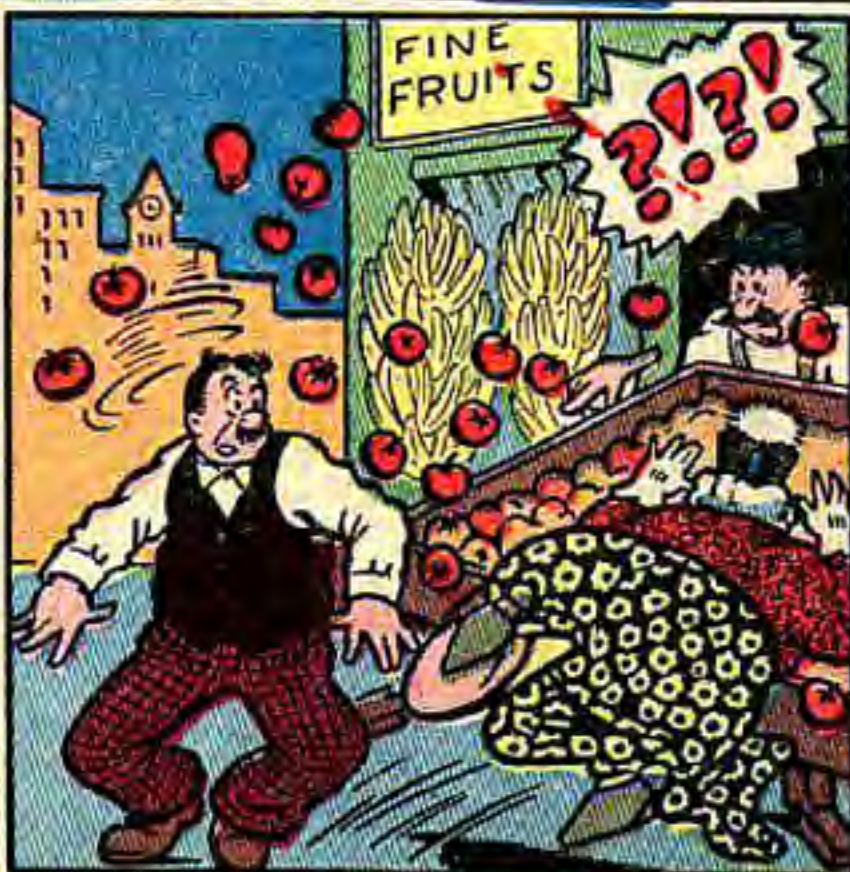
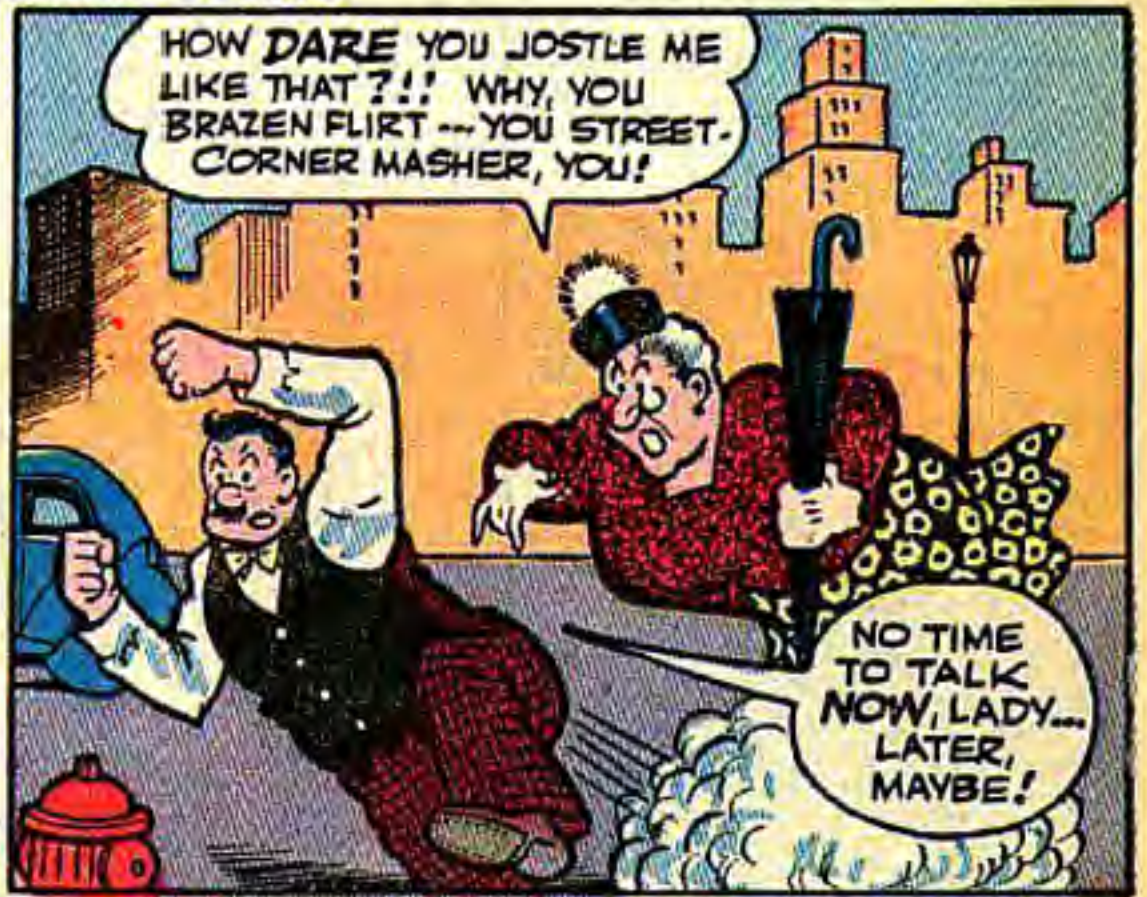




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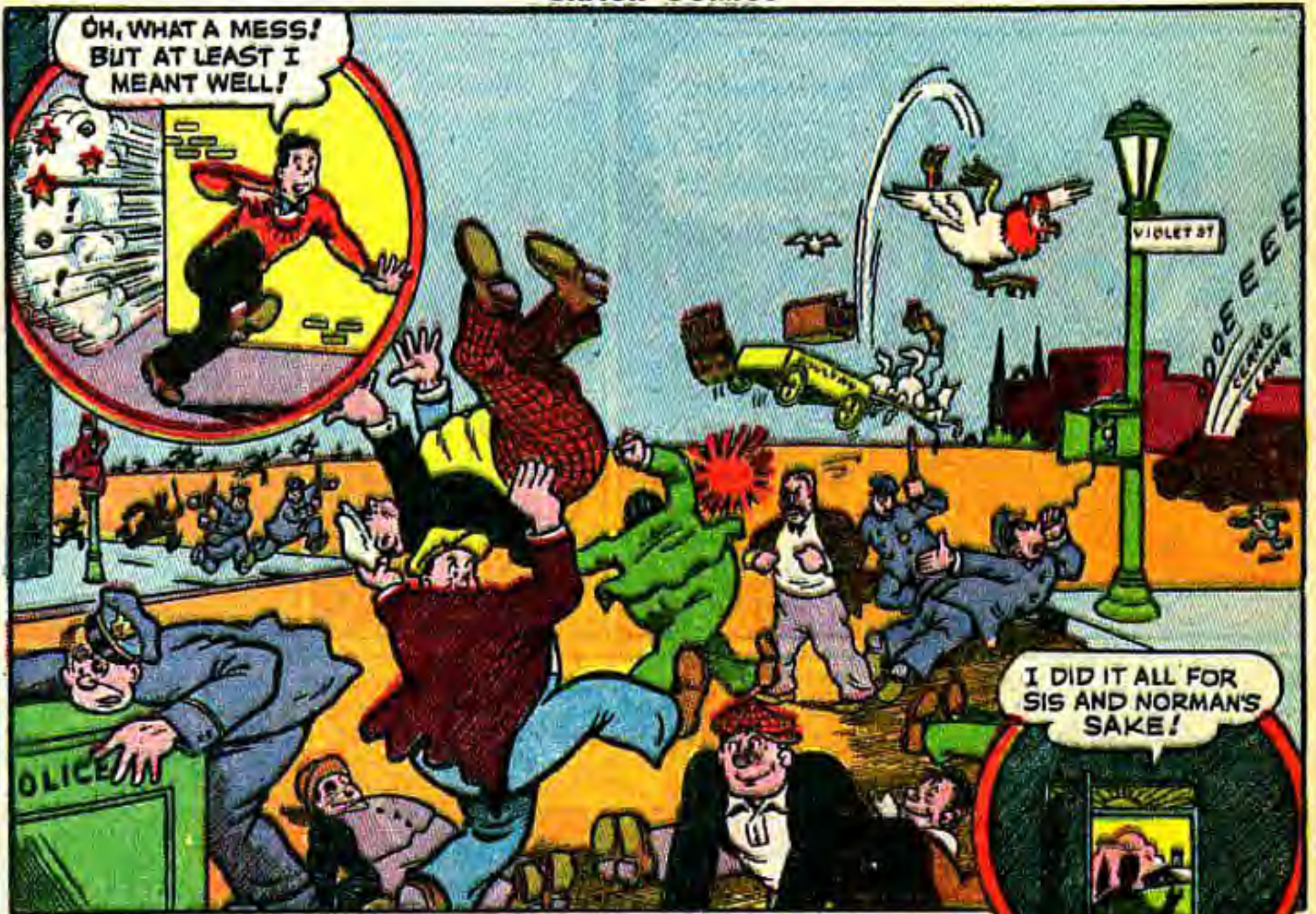




## CRACK COMICS





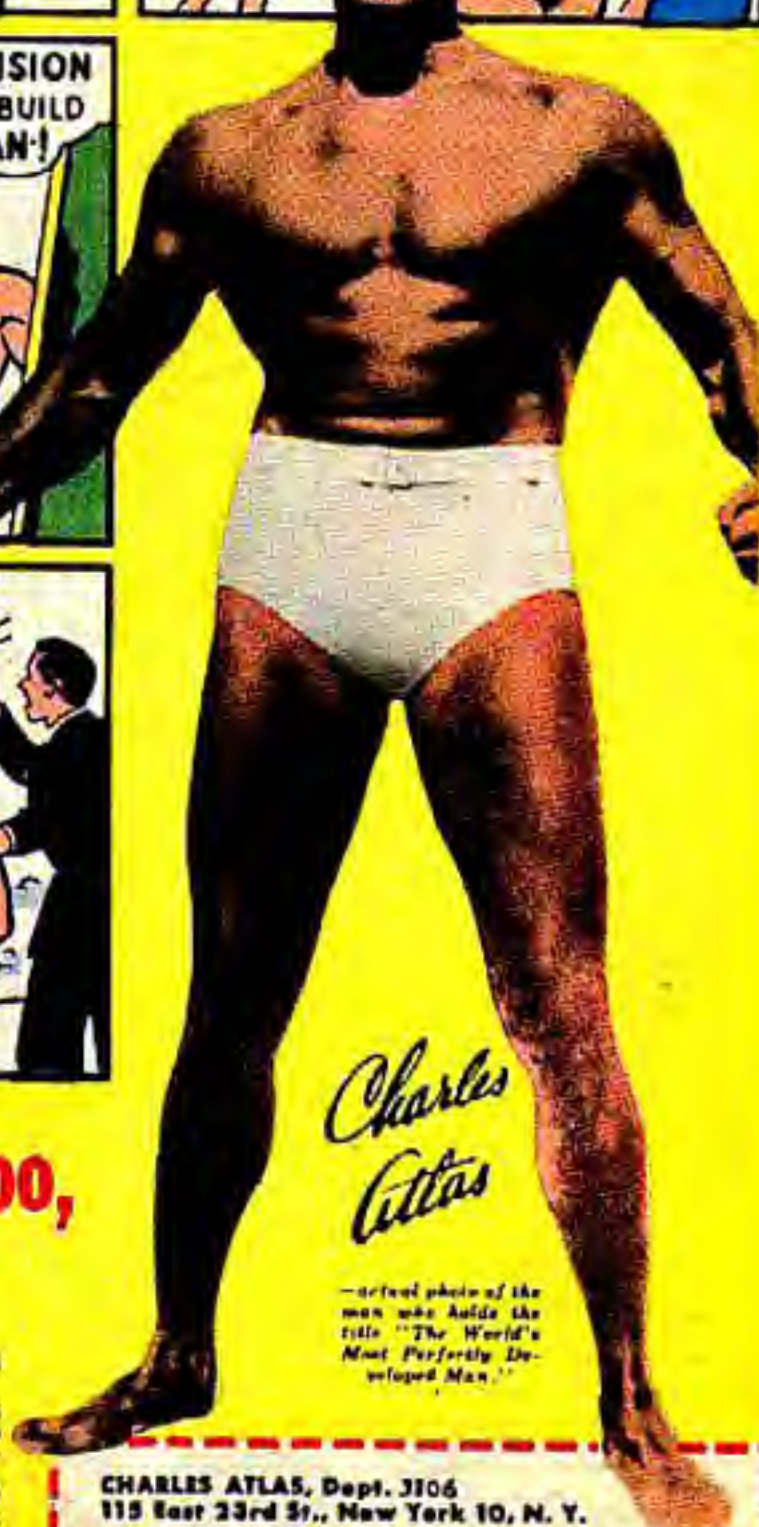




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**CHARLES ATLAS**



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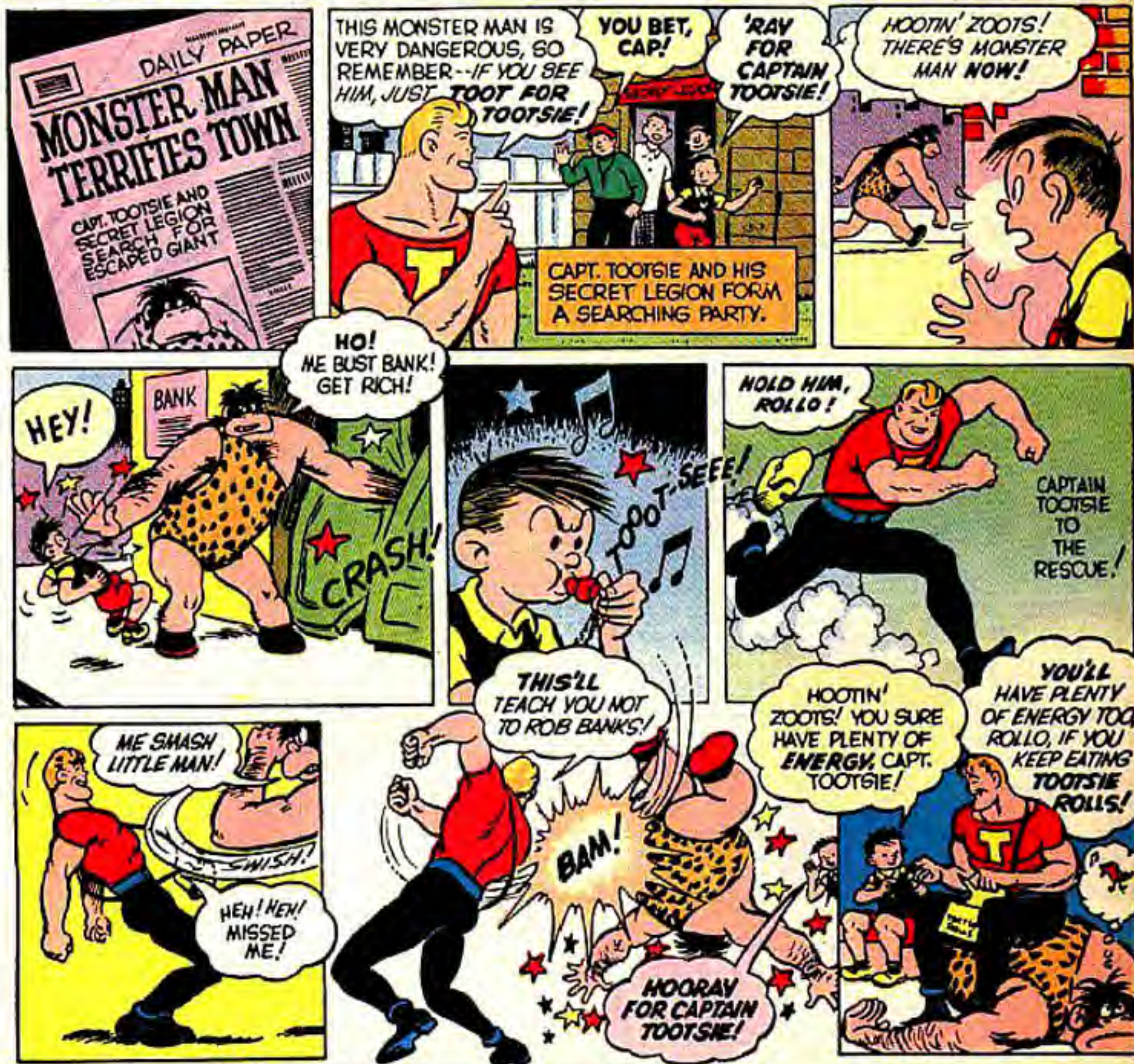
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